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DREW BROWN/Stars and Stripes

Uneasy alliance

U.S. forces chafe under challenges of working with Afghan forces and stricter rules governing the war

Afghan troops search a house last month in the Shah Joy district of southern Afghanistan's Zabul province. As NATO strategy shifts, Afghan soldiers are increasingly being thrust to the forefront of operations, especially when searching for hidden weapons and explosives.

BY DREW BROWN
Stars and Stripes

ASH JOY DISTRICT, Afghanistan — An Afghan army commander whom American troops had dubbed "Snoop" was angry, accusing a U.S. dog handler of allowing his Labrador retriever to sniff a copy of the Quran while searching a cluster of villages that U.S. forces suspect is a Taliban stronghold.

The commander — named for his resemblance to the rapper Snoop Dogg — warned 2nd Lt. Blake Wyant of Company C, 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment that he and his men were ready to quit the village and

Afghan policeman opens fire on British soldiers in Helmand province, killing 5 **Page 6**

never work with American forces again.

Wyant, 24, of Sioux City, Iowa, listened patiently until Snoop threatened to kill the dog if the incident happened a second time. Muslims consider dogs to be unclean.

Speaking through an interpreter, Wyant looked evenly at the Afghan commander.

"You tell him that's not going to happen," he said. "You tell him that shooting that dog would be just like shooting an American soldier."

The incident and several others during the three-day mission last week in a suspected Taliban stronghold underscored the fundamental challenges that U.S. troops face in Afghanistan. As the war drags into its ninth year, and as President Barack Obama contemplates sending thousands more troops, Americans are fighting alongside Afghan government forces more closely than ever. But it's an uneasy alliance.

SEE ALLIANCE ON PAGE 5



Ohio State's Terrelle Pryor



Reflective belts have some airmen wishing for policy loophole **Page 4**

Navy physician accused of sexually assaulting patients in Japan, Kuwait **Page 3**

North Korea's military taking the reins of country's economy

BY BLAINE HARDEN
The Washington Post

SEOUL — North Korea's military, whose nuclear program vexes the Obama administration, has grabbed nearly complete command of the nation's state-run economy and staked out a lucrative new trade in mineral sales to China to make money for its supreme commander, Kim Jong Il.

As it deepens its dominance over nearly every aspect of daily life, the Korean People's Army is also deploying soldiers to take first dibs on all food harvested in the isolated, chronically hungry country,

"The military is by far the largest, most capable and most efficient organization in North Korea, and Kim Jong Il is making maximum use of it."

Lim Eul-chul

Institute for Far Eastern Studies

according to the latest assessments of analysts.

The army has earned hundreds of millions of dollars selling missiles and weapons to Iran, Pakistan, Syria and other nations.

But its two nuclear tests, the most recent of which occurred in May, have triggered U.N. sanctions that are now choking off arms sales.

So the army has come up with a new business model, taking over the manage-

ment of state trading companies to rapidly increase sales of coal, iron ore and other minerals to China, according to trade data and analysts.

The potential profits are eye-popping: China is one of the world's most voracious consumers of raw materials, and North Korea's mineral reserves are worth \$5.94 trillion, according to an estimate by South Korea's Ministry of Unification. China has been critical of North Korea's nuclear program and missile tests, but it also has vastly increased its economic ties with Kim's government.

SEE KOREA ON PAGE 2

QUOTE OF THE DAY

**"My only logical response is,
'wait ... you can see me?'"**

— Tom Walsh, a servicemember, in a Facebook post on being asked why he wasn't wearing a reflective belt with his military uniform

See story on Page 4

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COMING TOMORROW

Faith
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was fired over faith

TODAY IN STRIPES

Advice	20
American Roundup	16-17
Classified	22-23
Comics	18-20
Crossword	19
Faces	10
Horoscope	18
Letters/Opinion	14-15
Shifting Gears	11
Sports	24-32
Sudoku	18
TV listings	21
Weather	13
Your Money	12



Sitting pretty

U.S. Marines based on Okinawa hold their machine guns during a joint landing operation between South Korean and U.S. troops at Pohang Beach, South Korea, on Wednesday.

LEE JIN-MAN/AP

Korea: North Korea makes 'military first' its mantra

KOREA, FROM PAGE 1

Kim is increasingly skimming off a significant slice of Chinese mineral revenue to fund his nuclear program and to buy the loyalty of elites, according to "North Korea Inc.," a recent report by the U.S. Institute of Peace.

The report echoes the views of North Korean analysts in South Korea, Japan and the United States, who say the military has elbowed out other ministries and the Korean Workers' Party to take control of exports that earn

hard currency. The military also is sending trucks to state farms to haul away as much as a quarter of the annual harvest for its soldiers, analysts say.

"The military is by far the largest, most capable and most efficient organization in North Korea, and Kim Jong Il is making maximum use of it," said Lim Eul-chul of the Institute for Far Eastern Studies in Seoul.

North Korea is perhaps the world's most secretive and repressive state, but it makes no attempt to hide the ubiquitous role the military plays in the daily lives of the country's 23.5 million people. Soldiers dig clams and launch missiles, pick apples and build irrigation canals, market mushrooms and supervise the export of knockoff Nintendo games. They also guard the country's 3,000 cooperative farms, and help themselves to scarce food in a hungry country.

"The army is the people, the state and the party," the government has declared. All references to the word "communism" were removed this year from the North Korean constitution. They were replaced with the word "songun,"

which means "military first."

"Once we lay the foundation for a powerful self-sustaining national defense industry, we will be able to rejuvenate all economic fields," said the Nodong Sinmun, the main government newspaper.

Missile sales were for many years major earners of foreign currency, according to a report for the Strategic Studies Institute by Daniel A. Pinkston, who is now a Seoul-based analyst with the International Crisis Group. But the cost of the arms trade has gone up and sales have declined as a result of U.N. sanctions imposed after the North's nuclear tests in 2006 and this year, South Korean analysts say.

So, the military has turned to its new Chinese cash cow. As the army has taken over management of mines in North Korea, mineral exports to China have soared, rising from \$15 million in 2003 to \$291 million last year. Led by those sales, the North's total trade volume rose last year to its highest level since 1990.

A unique advantage the Korean People's Army brings to foreign trade is a well-disciplined workforce that has to be paid

— nothing. Soldiers receive food, clothes and lodging, but virtually no cash. This competitive edge makes military-run trading companies especially attractive to the North's leadership, according to the Institute of Peace report.

Based on confidential interviews with recent North Korean defectors, four of whom said they worked for trading companies run by the military, the paper concludes that a "designated percentage of all revenues generated from commercial activities ... goes directly into Kim Jong Il's personal accounts." The rest of the revenue flows into the operating budget of the military.

In a cold, mountainous country chronically short of food, it is no small trick to feed more than a million soldiers every day. In the "military first" era, the army has come up with a muscular solution.

"At harvest time, soldiers bring their own trucks to the farms and just take," said Kwon Tae-jin, a specialist on North Korean agriculture at the Korea Rural Economic Institute, which is funded by the South Korean government.

Clarification

An Oct. 31 story about the French military serving in Afghanistan identified U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Andrew Piekalkiewicz as a Special Forces soldier. Piekalkiewicz is a Special Forces-qualified soldier with the Georgia National Guard. He is serving in Afghanistan with a police mentoring team.

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BEN BLOKER/Stars and Stripes

Airmen stand on the flight line Monday at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Some airmen's dislike of the belt policy has sparked a Facebook page titled: "I hate reflective belts."

Airmen sound off on reflective belts

BY MARK ABRAMSON
Stars and Stripes

KAIERSLAUTERN, Germany — Airmen concerned about becoming glow-in-the-dark targets are sounding off about those shiny Air Force safety belts that clash with their cammies.

Airmen — and other service-members — have taken their gripes and giggles about the belts to the Web by starting a Facebook page titled (what else?): "I hate reflective belts."

Air Force policy requires the belts to be worn during reduced visibility, such as inclement weather; on a flight line; and when a commander deems necessary, said Paul Carlisle, acting deputy chief of Air Force Ground Safety, via telephone from Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

They must be worn in traffic

environments, whether it is on a street or in a parking lot, he said.

The purpose is to increase airmen's visibility, Carlisle said.

And the policy applies down-range, although it's up to the discretion of the commander, said Lt. Col. Ann Stefanek, an Air Force Pentagon spokeswoman.

Policy or not, some service-members don't like having to wear something that may be fine and dandy for jogging at night or on the flight line, but is a head-scratcher when it comes to trying to blend in on a desert battlefield.

Some Facebook posters even gave the belt policy a four-letter-word salute.

Until last week, the Facebook site had about 3,600 members. After a story about it appeared on Wired's "Danger Room" last Friday, more than 7,000 people

have jumped on the anti-belt bandwagon.

"Nothing like wearing something that screams ... here I am! Shoot me," Jennie Eschbaugh wrote in her posting.

"I love when people say, 'hey, where is your reflective belt?'" Tom Walsh chimed in. "My only logical response is, 'wait ... you can see me?'"

"We must ask ourselves ... would Gen. George Patton want his troops wearing these?" Brandon Erickson wrote.

"I'm just thinking of the day when we wear so much reflective material that we literally glow.... Someone should get a hold of as many reflective belts as they can in different colors and put them all on."

Others bemoaned having to wear the belts at Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan; at Guanta-

namo Bay, Cuba; and in Kuwait.

Air Force officials said they don't have an official view on the Facebook page.

"We have obviously seen it as a result of Wired," said Stefanek. "It is interesting to look and see what our airmen's opinions are on different items."

Stefanek added that the Air Force views personal Web sites and blogs positively and it respects the rights of airmen to use them as a medium of self-expression. While there is no current guidance specifically outlining engagement via social media, Air Force instructions provide guidance on appropriate public behavior.

But Air Force officials said airmen can be admonished or face nonjudicial punishment for not wearing the belts when required.

Airmen at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, had mixed views about the flashy uniform accessory.

They wanted to remain anonymous to avoid any backlash from higher-ups.

"I think it's OK to wear at night. Technically, right now, I would have to wear it because it's overcast," one beltless airman said.

Another airman said he got ripped for not wearing his belt when he walked to the Chili's restaurant on base.

And one of his battle buddies called the belts "ridiculous."

Although many of the airmen interviewed weren't wearing their safety belts, they certainly were packing 'em.

"It makes sense. It's the law," said Staff Sgt. Dagoberto Ramirez.

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More than 150 sailors to be separated from Navy

BY DAVID CARTER
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — More than 150 senior enlisted sailors are being separated after the Navy wrapped up its first continuation board last month, according to the Navy.

Of the 5,686 sailors up for review, 97 percent were recommended for continuation, according to the Navy's Personnel

Command Web site.

The 158 who were not will have until June 30 to retire.

An Oct. 23 e-mail from Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick West indicated only 38 percent of the sailors who showed "adverse performance" are being separated.

The Navy defines adverse performance as failure to meet personnel, job or fitness standards as well as being involved in any

misconduct or criminal activity.

Senior Chief Petty Officer Johannes Gonzalez, Yokosuka's regional career counselor, said the retention of some sailors who've had such problems in the past is an indicator they've "bounced back."

"I'm glad they didn't focus on the first strike a sailor may have on their record," he said.

The boards, which will be conducted annually, focus on sailors ranked E-7 through

E-9 with 20 or more years of service.

Gonzalez said future boards may shift focus for a given year, but performance is always going to be key to a long career.

"If chief petty officers want to stay longer than 20 years, they're going to have to perform, anchor up and follow the guiding principles that we're taught as chiefs," he said.

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"The rules of engagement here are so strict there is nothing we can do. We kind of shadow the ANA and drive around and get blown up. It's like tying a boxer's hands and then throwing him into the ring and telling him he can't use his feet to kick."

Staff Sgt. Gary Grose



DREW BROWN/Stars and Stripes

Afghan villagers gather on one side of a stream to watch U.S. and Afghan forces, on the other side, take a long break while patrolling in the Shah Joy district of southern Afghanistan's Zabul province. With NATO strategy in Afghanistan now focused on protecting civilians — rather than killing the Taliban — the task of international troops and their Afghan government allies is to figure out how to bridge the gap and earn the trust of villagers like these.

Alliance: New counterinsurgency rules lead to changes in conducting Afghan operations

ALLIANCE, FROM PAGE 1

Wyant and Snoop struck a compromise. The handler and his dog would not search any more houses without an Afghan interpreter present. Later, after Snoop and his men had moved on, the interpreter told Wyant that they had actually threatened to kill not only the dog, but all of the U.S. soldiers in the village as well.

"Well, I know that isn't going to happen," Wyant said. "We're much better shots than they are."

U.S. and other international troops are now also fighting under strict new counterinsurgency guidelines laid down in September by Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan. The rules emphasize protecting Afghan civilians over destroying the Taliban.

The goal is to convince Afghans, worn down by 30 years of warfare, that the Afghan government and its security forces offer them a better life than the insurgents. Under the new policy, Afghan soldiers and police have been thrust to the forefront, with U.S. and other international troops playing more of a supporting role. U.S. soldiers say the policy has led to several changes in how they conduct operations, including a rule that prohibits them from cutting locks on doors while searching for weapons and explosives. That task is to be handled by Afghans.

To see more photos, go to stripes.com/go/ana

find anyone to let them inside — a practice that many soldiers said works in the Taliban's favor.

"The ANA (Afghan National Army) is supposed to do that, but they don't want to," said Wyant. "You could probably put a lot of stuff in a room and lock it up, and we wouldn't be able to get to it."

Other soldiers said new rules have severely limited how they can react to enemy threats. Several soldiers recounted how, on Aug. 20, as Afghans cast their votes for president, they received mortar fire from a Taliban position in a village. The fighters were out of range of rifle fire, but the troops couldn't fire back with heavy weapons because the Taliban position was in a populated area.

"You could see the house where they were shooting from," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Spaulding, 39, of Spring Hill, Fla. "They'd shoot, and then they'd walk around the side of the house to see where the rounds were impacting."

"The enemy is smart," he said. "They fire at us from

But during their mission here, U.S. soldiers complained frequently that when Afghan troops came across a locked door, they left it alone if they couldn't

a building inside a village, and they know we can't fire back at them."

Other soldiers said the restrictions were placing U.S. forces at too much risk.

"The rules of engagement here are so strict there is nothing we can do," said Staff Sgt. Gary Grose, 31, of Alexandria, La. "We kind of shadow the ANA and drive around and get blown up."

"It's like tying a boxer's hands and then throwing him into the ring and telling him he can't use his feet to kick," Grose said.

But Capt. Aaron Parks, the Company C commander, said that the restrictions soldiers are now operating under are necessary "for achieving the end-state we want, which is to convince the Afghan people to support the government and Afghan security forces."

"History has shown that without the support of the local people, a counterinsurgency cannot be successful," said Parks, 30, of Eustis, Fla.

"If we come in and destroy the local populace's houses and fields and livelihoods, then they will not view us and the Afghan government as any better than the Taliban."

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Chow and Wow!

After work fun ideas

Read After Hours
on page 15,
every Sunday in

STARS AND STRIPES,
Scene

Afghan policeman kills 5 British troops

BY ELENA BECATOROS
The Associated Press

KABUL — An Afghan policeman opened fire on British soldiers in Helmand province, killing five before fleeing, authorities said Wednesday.

The attack Tuesday afternoon came a month after an Afghan policeman on patrol with U.S. soldiers fired on the Americans, killing two. Training and operating jointly with Afghan police and soldiers is key to NATO's strategy of dealing with the spreading Taliban-led insurgency and, ultimately, allowing international forces to leave Afghanistan.

Attacks such as these will heighten concern about the effectiveness of the Afghan forces.

Lt. Col. David Wakefield, spokesman for the British forces, told Sky News that the soldiers had been mentoring Afghan national police and had been working and living in the police checkpoint in Helmand's Nad-e-Ali district. "It is our initial understanding that an individual Afghan policeman possibly acting in conjunction with one other started firing inside the checkpoint before fleeing from the scene," he said.

A Helmand police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said authorities searched through the night and on Wednesday for the attacker. He said the man had been working as a police officer in the area for three years, and had passed through a police academy in Kandahar.

The attacker was on the roof of a police checkpoint and opened fire on the British soldiers, who returned fire. Six other soldiers were wounded, as were two Afghan policemen, NATO forces headquarters in Kabul said in a statement. "These are incidents that can happen anywhere. The crazy man who has done this has also attacked the Afghan police," said presidential spokesman Humaayun Hamidzada. "You can't use this isolated incident to say that there is a problem with the police force of Afghanistan. In the U.S., people shoot up people in a shopping mall. There are crazy people everywhere."

Karzai issued a statement condemning the killings and offering condolences to the people of Britain and the relatives of the soldiers.

The commander of international forces in Afghanistan, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, said he discussed the shooting with Interior Minister Mohammad Hanif Atmar, who "gave me his assurance that this incident will be fully and transparently investigated."

"We will not let this event deter our resolve to building a partnership with the Afghan National Security Forces to provide for Afghanistan's future," McChrystal said in a joint statement issued by NATO forces and the ministry.



PETER BYRNE/AP

A casualty is brought into the military hospital at Camp Bastion, in Helmand province, Afghanistan, after five British soldiers were shot dead Tuesday when an Afghan policeman opened fire on them.

Abdullah says Karzai can't stop corruption

BY HEIDI VOGT
AND RAHIM FAIEZ
The Associated Press

KABUL — Afghan President Hamid Karzai's challenger in the recent presidential election said Wednesday that the current government will not be able to rein in corruption and has wasted the resources and lives of its international allies.

Abdullah Abdullah said the Afghan government had squandered eight years of opportunity and the assistance of its Western allies by failing to stamp out corruption or establish institutions responsive to the Afghan people.

The Afghan election commission's decision not to have a runoff election after

a fraud-marred first round was not legal and has created a government that cannot be trusted to follow the rule of law, Abdullah said.

"That government cannot bring legitimacy, cannot fight corruption," Abdullah said, adding that it "cannot deal with all the challenges, especially the threat of terrorism, security problems, poverty, unemployment and many others."

But Abdullah — who said he dropped out of the election runoff because he said it could not be conducted freely or fairly — said he was not personally challenging the commission's declaration of Karzai as president. "The process has completed itself with that final, illegal decision," he said, referring to the election commission's ruling.

"I leave it to the people of Afghanistan to judge," he said.

The election commission proclaimed Karzai the victor of the country's tumultuous ballot Monday, canceling the planned runoff and ending a political crisis two and a half months after a first round of voting in August that was marred by widespread fraud.

People close to Karzai and Abdullah have said that the two have been in talks over the last few weeks to negotiate a power-sharing agreement, but no deal has emerged.

Karzai said in his victory speech Tuesday that he would welcome anyone from the opposition into his administration, but did not make a direct appeal to Abdullah to join him.

Iraqi lawmakers warned of possible vote delay in parliamentary election

BY QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi lawmakers have only a day left to agree on a new bill that would enable the country to hold key parliamentary elections in January, according to remarks Wednesday by the country's election commission chairman.

The chairman, Faraj al-Haidari, said he warned the legislators that if they don't approve the election law by the end of Thursday, the country's nationwide vote will be delayed.

Any postponement in the Jan. 16 balloting could undermine the country's fragile stability and impact U.S. plans to withdraw troops from Iraq, now scheduled to ramp up after

the vote. The possibility of the delay is additionally worrying because it is at times of political instability that violence tends to rise in Iraq.

"We informed the Parliament that if the election law is not legislated within 48 hours, it would be difficult and impossible to carry out the elections," al-Haidari said.

Iraqi lawmakers have been struggling to agree on the law, needed to carry out the vote. The key sticking point is the issue of who should be allowed to vote in Kirkuk, a disputed oil-rich city in the north that is claimed by both Kurds and Arabs.

Kurds consider Kirkuk a Kurdish city and want it part of

their self-ruled region. But the Arab-led central government vehemently opposes anything that would remove Kirkuk from its control.

During the rule of former dictator Saddam Hussein, tens of thousands of Kurds were displaced under a forced plan to make Kirkuk predominantly Arab. Many Kurds have returned since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, but other groups claim Kurds have packed more Kurds into the city than before.

A referendum on the city's future, required by the constitution, has been repeatedly postponed.

The immediate dispute centers on voting rolls, listing who can vote in Kirkuk in January.

Mullen: DOD might ask for supplemental funds

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff expects another war supplemental bill this fiscal year despite the Obama administration's efforts to cover the costs of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars in the base defense budget.

"From what I can see, I certainly think there will be some requirement," Adm. Mike Mullen said Wednesday during a question-and-answer session at the National Press Club. "I just don't

know exactly what it will be."

President Barack Obama had vowed to stop using emergency supplementals to fund both wars, arguing that doing so hides the true costs of overseas operations.

But Obama is considering a request from the top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan for more than 40,000 extra troops, which if approved, would put U.S. troop strength in Afghanistan to close to 110,000.

A White House spokesman did not respond to messages by deadline on Wednesday.

From staff reports



IN THE WORLD

Italy convicts 23 Americans in CIA kidnap case

BY COLLEEN BARRY
The Associated Press

MILAN — An Italian judge on Wednesday convicted 23 Americans of the 2003 kidnapping of an Egyptian cleric on a Milan street, in a landmark case involving the CIA's extraordinary rendition program in the war on terrorism.

Citing diplomatic immunity, Judge Oscar Magi told the Milan courtroom Wednesday that he was acquitting three other Americans.

Former Milan CIA station chief, Robert Seldon Lady, received the stiffest sentence, eight years in prison. The other 22 convicted American defendants each received a five-year sentence.

The Americans, all but one identified by prosecutors as CIA agents, were tried in absentia. Their lawyers entered innocent pleas on their client's behalf. They are considered fugitives from Italian justice.

In Washington, CIA spokesman George Little declined to comment. He said, "The CIA has not commented on any of the allegations surrounding Abu Omar," the kidnapped man.

Magi said he was acquitted five Italian defendants because Italy withheld evidence, contending it was classified information. Two

of the Italian defendants were convicted as accomplices to kidnapping and received three-year sentences, which despite the state secrecy imposed, indicates that Italian officials were complicit.

The verdict "sends a strong signal of the crimes committed by the CIA in Europe," said Joanne Mariner of Human Rights Watch. The crimes were "unacceptable and unjustified," said Mariner, who was in the courtroom for the verdict at the end of the nearly 3-year-long trial.

The Americans were accused of kidnapping Osama Moustafa Hassan Nasr, also known as Abu Omar, on Feb. 17, 2003, in Milan, then transferring him to U.S. bases in Italy and Germany. He was then moved to Egypt, where he says he was tortured. He was released after four years in prison without being charged.

The trial is the first by any government over the CIA's extraordinary rendition program, which transferred suspects overseas for interrogation.

State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said Wednesday that the United States would not comment because the judge had not issued a written opinion. But he said the Obama administration was "disappointed about the verdicts."



Iranian students who are members of Basij militia, a unit of the Revolutionary Guard, burn an American flag during a demonstration in front of the former U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran, commemorating the 30th anniversary of the seizure of the embassy.

VAHID SALEM/AP

Iran police, protesters clash at U.S. Embassy

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI
The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iranian security forces beat anti-government protesters with batons Wednesday on the sidelines of state-sanctioned rallies to mark the 30th anniversary of the U.S. Embassy takeover. The counter-demonstrations were the opposition's first major show of force on Tehran's streets in nearly two months.

The opposition sought to display unity and resolve after relentless crackdowns on their protests following the disputed June presidential election. Though the crowds were far smaller than during last summer's outrage, authorities were ready with the same sweeping measures: dispatching paramilitary units to key locations and disrupting mobile phones, text messaging and Internet access to frustrate protest organizers.

The contrasts in the latest protest wave were stark: people chanting "Death to America" outside the former U.S. Embassy while hundreds of opposition marchers in central Haft-e-Tir Square denounced President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad with cries of "Death to the Dictator."

Other opposition protesters marched silently and flashed the V-for-victory sign. Many wore green scarves or wristbands that symbolized the campaign of opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi,

who claims Ahmadinejad stole the election from him through fraud. Mousavi and his allies, including former President Mohammad Khatami, appeared to encourage opposition protesters to return to the streets.

Witnesses said that security forces — mainly paramilitary units and militiamen from the elite Revolutionary Guard — swept through the hundreds of demonstrators at Haft-e-Tir Square, clubbing, kicking and slapping protesters. The witnesses spoke on condition of anonymity.

Pro-reform Web sites said police fired into the air to try to clear the square — about half a mile from the annual anti-American gathering outside the former U.S. Embassy. The report could not immediately be independently verified.

The state-run Islamic Republic News Agency reported police also used tear gas to disperse protesters in other parts of the city. There was no independent information on injuries or arrests, but state-run Press TV said no one was hurt.

A leading opposition figure, Mahdi Karroubi, fell to the ground after being overcome by tear gas, according to a posting by his son Hossein on Karroubi's Web site. His supporters carried him into his car, which plainclothes government supporters attacked as it drove away, the account said.

Karroubi did not need medical attention, his son said.

Storm leaves at least 91 dead in Vietnam



THAI SON, VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY/AP

People walk along a flooded railroad in Binh Dinh province in Vietnam's south central coast on Tuesday. The death toll from Tropical Storm Mirinae rose to 91 in Vietnam on Wednesday as authorities stepped up rescue and relief operations in the affected central regions.

U.S. official meets Suu Kyi in Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar — The U.S. wants better relations with military-ruled Myanmar if it makes concrete steps toward democracy, a senior U.S. diplomat said Wednesday after holding the highest-level talks with the junta and opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi in 14 years.

The goals of the new policy are "strong support for human rights, the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners and the promotion of democratic reform," Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell said.

Israeli commandos snag Hezbollah arms ship

JERUSALEM — Israeli commandos seized a ship Wednesday that defense officials said was carrying hundreds of tons of weapons from Iran bound for Lebanon's Hezbollah guerrillas — the largest arms shipment Israel has ever commandeered.

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From The Associated Press

IN THE STATES

Police to see if offender's home has more bodies

The Associated Press

Authorities say they have confirmed a total of at least 11 victims whose remains were found in the Cleveland home of a sex offender.

The Cuyahoga County coroner's office said Wednesday that a skull found in a bucket in Anthony Sowell's basement belonged to a body they have not yet found.

Authorities also say they have identified one of the victims as 52-year-old Tonia Carmichael, who disappeared a year ago.

Police Chief Michael McGrath says her remains were buried in the backyard and had marks indicating she was strangled.

Carmichael's daughter Markiesha Carmichael-Jacobs says her mother struggled with drug addiction and frequented Sowell's neighborhood.

Anthony Sowell appeared in court under tight security, wearing a blue paper jumpsuit typically used when an inmate might be a suicide risk. His wrists and ankles were manacled, and he walked into court staggering slightly.

Assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Brian Murphy said Sowell could face the death penalty if convicted of the charges — five aggravated murder counts for the first victims whose cause of death has been ruled strangling. In addition, he faces charges of rape, felonious assault and kidnapping for a Sept. 22 attack on a woman at his home.

Public defender Kathleen DeMetz told the judge that Sowell has medical problems, including a pacemaker and cardiac medication. He was laid off two years ago and receives unemployment compensation.

After Sowell's court appearance, deputy Police Chief Ed Tomba said investigators will begin tearing apart walls inside the house Wednesday in search of more evidence or bodies.

As a registered sex offender, Sowell was required to check in at the sheriff's office. Officers didn't have the right to enter his house, but they would make sure he was there. Their most recent visit was Sept. 22, just hours before the woman reported being raped.



Far left: Republican Chris Christie addresses his supporters Tuesday after beating incumbent Jon Corzine to become the 55th governor of New Jersey.

Left: Republican Gov.-elect Bob McDonnell waves to the crowd at his victory party in Richmond, Va. His predecessor in Virginia, Democrat Tim Kaine, was term-limited.

**FAR LEFT: HENRY RAY ABRAMS
LEFT: STEVE HELBER/AP**

GOP grabs Va., N.J. governorships

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House distanced itself Wednesday from Democratic losses in two states, saying the races for governor hinged on local issues and were not a referendum on President Barack Obama.

The Republican victories Tuesday in Virginia and New Jersey energized the opposition and are a setback for Obama as he struggles to overhaul the U.S. health care system, win passage of climate change legislation and build political support for his handling of the war in Afghanistan.

They could also be ominous for Democrats ahead of next year's midterm elections, when a third of the Senate, all of the House of Representatives and most governorships are on the ballot.

But White House press secretary Robert Gibbs told reporters that voters in both states went to the polls to work through "very local issues that didn't involve the president."

The presidential spokesman said that voters were concerned about the economy. He said: "I don't think the president needed an election or an exit poll to come to that conclusion."

Tuesday's elections marked some good news for Republicans, who lost control of Congress in 2006 and lost the White House last year. It will help them raise money and recruit candidates to prepare for next year's election.

Republican Party Chairman Michael Steele said the victories demonstrated "a transcendent party" that was on the move again.

In Virginia, Bob McDonnell, a conservative former state attorney general, easily defeated R. Creigh Deeds to become the state's first Republican governor in eight years.

In the traditionally Democratic state of New Jersey, Republican Chris Christie, a former corruption-busting federal prosecutor, narrowly defeated Gov. Jon Corzine, a billionaire former Wall Street executive, by a margin of 49 percent to 45 percent.

Democrats took some solace when party member Bill Owens captured the closely watched special election for a Republican-held vacant seat in the 23rd Congressional District in New York state that highlighted fissures between moderates and conservatives in Republican ranks.

Exit polls showed more than 4 in 10 voters in Virginia said their view of Obama factored into their choice, whether in support or opposition. The Obama factor was similar in New Jersey.

In other contests Tuesday, voters in the northeastern state of Maine rejected a state law that would allow same-sex couples to wed.

If supporters had prevailed, it would have marked the first time that the electorate in any state endorsed gay marriage.

A number of cities selected mayors. Billionaire Michael Bloomberg won a third term as New York mayor in a closer-than-expected race.

California Lt. Gov. John Garamendi, a Democrat, won a special election to a vacant congressional seat. Ohio voters approved casinos and Breckenridge, Colo.,

voted overwhelmingly to legalize marijuana possession for adults.

The measure is largely sym-

bolic, because pot possession remains a state crime for people without medical clearance.

Out November 7



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STARS AND STRIPES

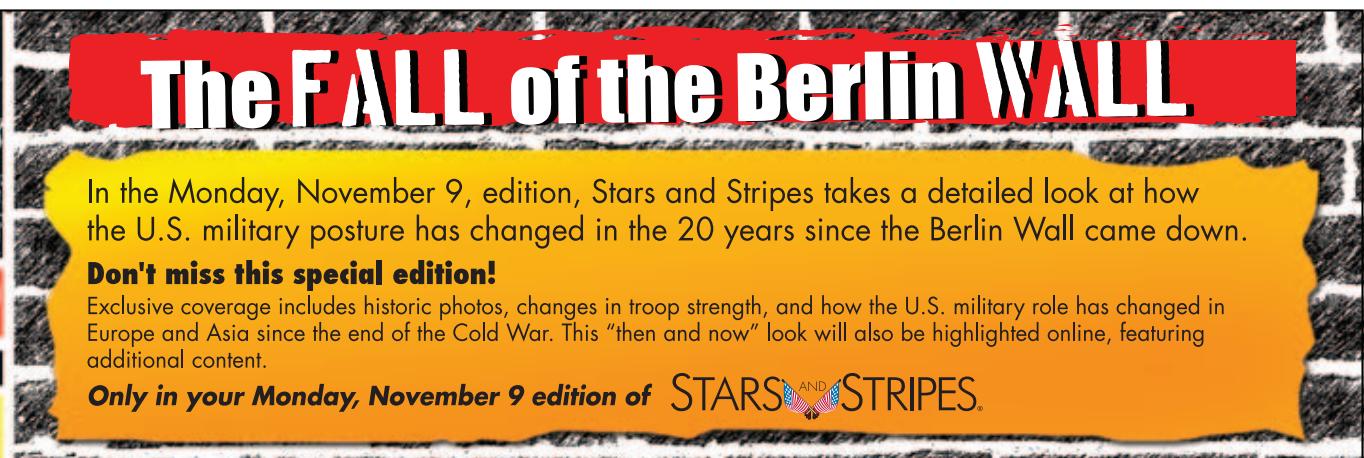
The FALL of the Berlin WALL

In the Monday, November 9, edition, Stars and Stripes takes a detailed look at how the U.S. military posture has changed in the 20 years since the Berlin Wall came down.

Don't miss this special edition!

Exclusive coverage includes historic photos, changes in troop strength, and how the U.S. military role has changed in Europe and Asia since the end of the Cold War. This "then and now" look will also be highlighted online, featuring additional content.

Only in your Monday, November 9 edition of STARS AND STRIPES.



FACES

Colbert's next move: Going for gold

'Colbert Nation' to sponsor speedskaters

Of the many countries participating at the Vancouver Olympics, add Colbert Nation to the list. On Monday's "The Colbert Report," comedian Stephen Colbert announced his show has become the primary sponsor of the U.S. Speedskating team. The team's largest annual cash sponsor, DSB Bank NV, left the team in the lurch after it declared bankruptcy in October.

The name "Colbert Nation" — the catchall for the legion of ardent fans of the satirical Comedy Central cable television program — will be emblazoned on the team's uniforms.

"On their enormous, billboard thighs, it will say, 'Colbert Nation,'" Colbert said in an interview Monday. "Be looking for that logo as it comes around the final turn. It will be easy to see because it will be in first place."

The show isn't paying the team any money directly. Instead, Colbert is calling on his fans to donate to the team via www.colbertnation.com and www.usspeedskating.org.

In the past, Colbert has had a great deal of success raising money this way.

He has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Yellow Ribbon Fund, a charity that assists injured service-members and their families.

Colbert, who often leads his audi-



ILLUSTRATION BY NOGA AMI-RAV/Stars and Stripes

ence in chants of "U-S-A!" said he had been considering taking "The Report" to Vancouver for the Olympics, much as he took the show to Iraq earlier this year to perform for American troops.

Gibson has eighth child

Mel Gibson and his girlfriend are welcoming the birth of the couple's first child — making the Oscar-winner a father for the eighth time.

Gibson's publicist Alan Nierob said Monday that Oksana Grigorieva, 39,

gave birth to a baby girl named Lucia on Friday at a hospital in Los Angeles.

No further details were available.

The 53-year-old "Braveheart" star has seven children with his ex-wife, Robyn. She cited irreconcilable differences in her April divorce petition to end their marriage of 28 years.

Oscar pair

Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin are taking on the Oscars.

The two Hollywood veterans will share hosting duties at the 82nd Academy Awards, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said Tuesday.

Telecast producers Bill Mechanic and Adam Shankman said Martin and Baldwin are "the perfect pair of hosts for the Oscars." The producers have said they hope to resurrect Oscar's ratings and make the show more fun by building on the changes introduced at February's ceremony, which tinkered with the way awards were presented and featured Broadway-style musical interludes.

Hugh Jackman sang and danced as host of last year's Academy Awards, which saw a ratings boost from the previous year. The 41-year-old actor declined to reprise his hosting role before Mechanic and Shankman were named as producers.

— The Associated Press

Sting wants kids to have a ball

Sting has co-founded a nonprofit group that is sending soccer balls to children in some of the most troubled places on Earth. Indestructible soccer balls.

"These kids have got nothing," Sting says. He describes how very poor children sometimes fashion their own soccer balls out of crumpled plastic bags tied together with twine.

The kids live in rough places — Rwanda, Afghanistan, the Palestinian territories. They might end up kicking a soccer ball around garbage and glass. That's where the indestructible part comes in.

Sting funded research and development to create a strong, long-lasting ball that had the "same weight and consistency and feel" as a soccer ball. It took a year. But here it is, about \$8 to produce, bright yellow and printed with the words: "HOPE Is a Game-Changer."

"It kicks like a soccer ball," Sting says. "I've kicked it, I've headed it, but I haven't scored a goal with it yet."

The pop star acknowledges that in the world's poorest places, children also need food and medicine.

But soccer balls matter, too, he said. The game can develop a sense of cooperation, leadership — and fun.

"Play is important," he says. "As important as anything else, really."

— The Washington Post



Sting

Carried away

Underwood stretches boundaries of country

Pop-country has made superstars out of acts like Rascal Flatts, Taylor Swift and more, but the term is not particularly endearing in Nashville, even to the artists who have come to define it.

"I hate saying pop-country — I hate using that," Carrie Underwood says during a recent interview while talking about some of her favorite artists.

Underwood, who has sold more than 10 million albums since her 2005 debut with hits that have appealed to both the MTV and CMT set, prefers to describe such music as "contemporary." But she acknowledges the sonic shift between some of her childhood idols and today's country stars.

"I loved Alan Jackson and Brooks & Dunn. Those were the people that really first made me love country music. Then there were people like Bryan White who were like coming on the scene," explains the 26-year-old Oklahoma native. "And he was like one of the people that was like 'OK, they don't have to all sound like this.' People can sound all kind of ways. And he was young and hot."

"I've had people tell me, 'I never listened to country music until I saw you on 'American Idol,' and now I've been to a Rascal Flatts concert, and I went and saw so and so,'" she adds. "And it's wonderful that we all kind of have our place in country music and we all pull listeners in for different reasons, and because of that we can hear everything."

Her third album, "Play On," out this

week, stretches her country boundaries even further. Not only did she re-team with "American Idol" judge and pop hitmaker Kara DioGuardi, who worked with her on her multiplatinum sophomore album, "Carnival Ride," she also worked with producers known for working with the likes of Britney Spears, Kelly Clarkson and Katy Perry (Max Martin), and Eminem (Mike Elizondo).

"I love all kinds of music and I think it's all kinds of fun when you take a slightly different element and you bring it to you and incorporate that into your music," she says.

"Play On" is still very much country — there's banjo, pedal steel and mandolin — but Underwood has added different musical textures, which points to her maturation as an artist.

"I'm not trying to move anywhere away from country music," she declares. "I love what I do. And let's say 'Cowboy Casanova' crosses over, it's going to cross over as it is — fiddles, steel and all. Growing up, I never liked it when people would have a country song and then change it for a different format."

While Underwood had great pop success, she's still firmly a country queen. She nabbed the Academy of Country Music's entertainer of the year this spring, and has four nominations for Nov. 11's Country Music Association awards, for which she will also serve as host for the second straight year.

— Chris Talbott/The Associated Press



Country legend wants title back

Country Music Hall of Famer George Jones isn't a big fan of where the genre has moved in recent years.

When asked what he thought about music by today's top country stars, the 78-year-old said while they are good, "they've stolen our identity."

Jones made the comment during a recent interview when asked about music by artists like Carrie Underwood and Taylor Swift.

"They had to use something that was established already, and that's traditional country music. So what they need to do really, I think, is find their own title, because they're definitely not traditional country music," he said.

"It's good to know that we still do traditional country music. Alan Jackson still does it, so does George Strait. We still have it, and there's quite a few of us that are going to hope that it comes back one of these days."



Jones

Underwood's new album is called "Play On."

— The Associated Press

SHIFTING GEARS

BY TOM KRISHER
The Associated Press

DETROIT — Asian automakers are still building the most reliable cars and trucks, with eight of the top 10 brands from Japanese and Korean companies, according to an annual survey by Consumer Reports.

But several models from Ford Motor Co. now consistently score above Honda and Toyota, the perennial leaders.

While Toyota's youth-oriented Scion brand finished first for the second year in a row, several Ford models, including the midsize Ford Fusion and its cousin, the Mercury Milan, consistently have been at or near the top of their classes, a trend that led Consumer Reports editors to declare that Ford is now making some vehicles

The new dependable rides

Some Ford models ace reliability tests

with world-class reliability.

Honda, Toyota, Infiniti and Acura rounded out the top five brands in reliability based on surveys taken last March of subscribers who own or lease 1.4 million vehicles.

Honda's Insight hybrid was the most reliable vehicle in the survey, while the luxury SUV Volkswagen Touareg was the least reliable. The survey gauges how dependable 2010 model cars and trucks will be based on reliability in the past.

Asian automakers have scored well over the years because they traditionally paid more attention to quality and have tried to perfect manufacturing procedures. The U.S. automakers, however, claim that they have caught up.

"Ford is definitely doing something right," said Rik Paul, the magazine's automotive editor.

Ford's Detroit-area competitors, General Motors Co. and Chrysler Group LLC, didn't fare as well, however.

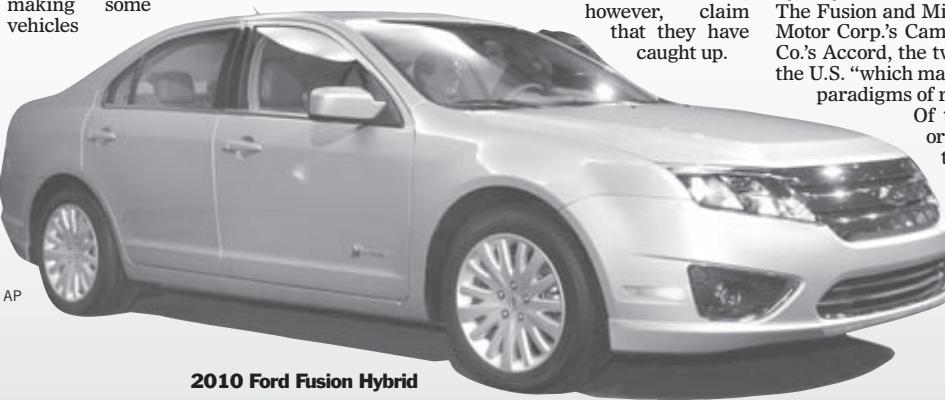
The Chrysler brand finished last out of 33 brands sold in the U.S. One third of Chrysler's models were much worse than average in reliability.

Six models from GM were recommended by the magazine, but only 21 of 48 models scored average or better.

At Ford, though, four-cylinder versions of the Fusion and Milan finished second in the family car category, beaten only by Toyota's Prius gas-electric hybrid. The Fusion and Milan outscored Toyota Motor Corp.'s Camry and Honda Motor Co.'s Accord, the two top-selling cars in the U.S. "which many people view as the paradigms of reliability," Paul said.

Of the 51 Ford, Lincoln or Mercury models in the survey, 46 were ranked average or better in reliability.

Complete results are available to subscribers at the Consumer Reports Web site at <http://www.consumerreports.org>.



2010 Ford Fusion Hybrid

Maserati sales slow, but steady way to big bucks

BY ARTHUR HIRSCH
The Baltimore Sun

Local motorists bored with their Mercedes, BMW or Bentley have a place to go around where someone will listen to such troubles without judgment, without even a snicker. At Maryland's only Maserati dealer, they understand.

On York Road in Timonium, Jack Davis, the general manager, and salesman Alfred Ramos hear the stories of drivers simply in pursuit of something else.

"No one needs a Maserati," Ramos said.

The curvaceous body, the 400-plus horsepower, the lightning-fast transmission, the Italian leather, the breathtaking pickup and braking, the conspicuous prestige — this blend of muscle and luxury is not the stuff of need but of desire.

Maserati builds fewer than 8,000 of these cars a year, all by hand.

It's for Ramos and Davis to consider the line between those who can afford to join the club and those who can only dream about it. They comprise the entire sales staff and half the employees of Maserati of Baltimore, now in its third year in Baltimore County.

For hours on end on one rainy and cool October weekday, the phones scarcely rang, and the only people to step through the glass doors were delivering something.

Davis insisted that business is fine, or as fine as it needs to be in a place where they call it a good month if they sell four new cars. Managers at local Nissan, Lexus and Toyota dealers said their monthly sales quotas are between 100 and 180 new cars.

Do potential buyers go for a test drive?

Maybe, but probably not right away.

"It's not a kiddie ride, to come in and say 'I drove the Maserati,'" Ramos said.

Say a guy walks in — and it's almost always a guy — says he'd like to have a look around, poke his head into a Quattroporte, settle into the cockpit of a GranTurismo and get a whiff of Poltrona Frau leather.

Ramos said he'll ask questions: What kind of cars have you driven? What did you like about them? What did you not like?

"Nine times out of 10 that'll flush out the clowns," Ramos said.

Davis and Ramos spend much of their time cultivating sales leads by working the phones and the cocktail circuit, or just showing up at certain restaurants.

"You go to where someone is paying \$50 for a steak," said Ramos.

"Or \$80," said Davis.

Bad batteries not always to blame for power problem

DEAR TOM AND RAY: How does one tell the difference between a bad battery and a bad alternator? My car will not crank, but has some power (the dome lights, panel lights and power locks work). I've had it on a trickle charge for about a week. That has worked in the past when I've had a dead battery, but it still won't start. Thanks for your help. — Cynthia

RAY: Well, it's possible that the trickle charge isn't working because your battery is dead and will no longer hold a sufficient charge.

TOM: But I wouldn't rush out and buy a Diehard just yet, Cynthia, because that's far from the only possibility.

RAY: Your battery could already BE completely charged. The car may not be cranking because you have a bad starter, a bad neutral safety switch, a bad clutch interlock (if it's a stick shift) or even a bad connection from the battery to the starter.

TOM: So here's what you do: Get someone to give you a jump-start. If you can get the car started with a jump, that suggests the battery is no good. Once you get it started, you can drive it to a local garage and ask them to test the battery for you. That will give you a definitive answer.

RAY: If you can't jump-start the car, then you can be relatively sure that it's a bad starter, or one of the other things we mentioned.

TOM: But if you've been charging it for a week and it still won't start, that puts the alternator way down on the list of things I'd suspect. The alternator's job is to charge the battery. And if the trickle charger can't do it with the help of your power company, I think the alternator may be off the hook. Good luck, Cynthia.

Got a question about cars? E-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com.

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Police: Students drove into pond, drowned

By BLAKE NICHOLSON
The Associated Press

DICKINSON, N.D. — Three college softball players found dead after their sport utility vehicle went into a pond on a North Dakota farm during a stargazing trip likely drove straight into the water in the dark, authorities said Wednesday.

Stark County Sheriff Clarence Tuhy said the women's SUV was found resting on its wheels Tuesday in about 10 feet of water hidden by tall grass, with the doors and windows closed.

"When you're not familiar with an area like that it would have

been very easy to drive into," Tuhy said.

The sheriff said the Dickinson State University students were on private property. He stopped short of saying they were trespassing.

No foul play is suspected in the deaths of Kyrstin Gamar, 22, of San Diego; Afton Williamson, 20, of Lake Elsinore,

Calif.; and Ashley Neufeld, 21, of Brandon, Manitoba. The bodies of the women and Neufeld's dog were found inside the SUV after signals from their last desperate phone calls late Sunday helped lead authorities

to the farm.

Police Lt. Rod Banyai said authorities do not expect autopsy

results for a week or two. The autopsies will help determine the exact cause of death and whether the women were under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Authorities have said there is no indication they were. The North Dakota Highway Patrol also will examine the 1997 Jeep Cherokee to determine if the vehicle mal-

functioned, Banyai said.

The students were believed to be in the Jeep when two of their friends received telephone calls late Sunday before the lines quickly went dead. Police described the first as a "very scratchy" call for help in which one of the students said they were near water.

Tuhy said the calls, which authorities were able to track to cell phone towers, were critical in leading searchers to the vehicle. He said it wasn't clear if emergency crews might have been able to reach the women had they called 911 instead of their friends.



Gamar



Neufeld

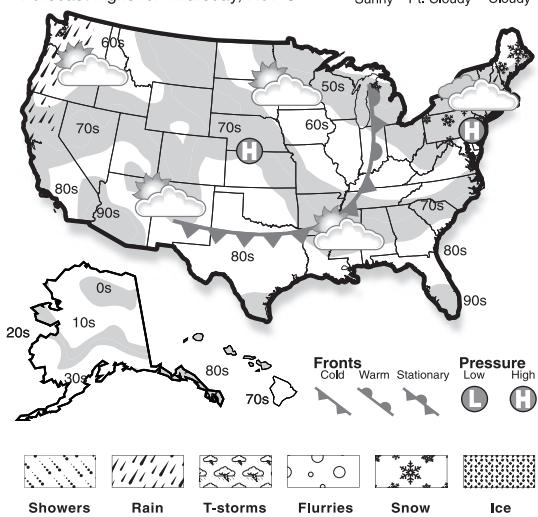


Williamson

WEATHER OUTLOOK

National forecast

Forecast highs for Thursday, Nov. 5



Pacific storm hits West Coast

A Pacific system will slide southeast, bringing rain and mountain snow along with cooler air across the Northwest and Northern California. Meanwhile, a mix of rain and snow is expected in the Northeast and portions of the Great Lakes.

Weather Underground • AP

Wednesday's global temperatures

City	hi	lo	wthr	La Paz	65	38	pc
Amsterdam	51	38	Rain	Lima	71	62	pc
Athens	62	44	Rain	Lisbon	68	57	pc
Auckland	64	55	Rain	London	57	46	Rain
Bahamas	76	67	Rain	Madrid	71	40	Clr
Bangkok	86	65	pc	Managua	89	73	Clr
Barbados	95	82	Clr	Melbourne	79	53	Rain
Beijing	73	54	Clr	Mexico City	68	42	pc
Beirut	44	17	Clr	Montevideo	64	59	Clr
Brussels	70	60	Rain	Montreal	51	35	Rain
Bucharest	39	32	Snow	Moscow	32	30	Snow
Budapest	41	37	Rain	Nairobi	77	59	pc
Bermuda	78	66	pc	Nassau	88	76	pc
Bogota	64	50	Rain	New Delhi	84	64	pc
Brisbane	83	75	Clr	Nice	66	49	Clr
Brussels	79	57	Clr	Osaka	57	44	Rain
Bucharest	53	39	Rain	Oslo	39	32	Rain
Budapest	39	28	Rain	Panama	82	75	Rain
Buenos Aires	73	59	Clr	Paris	55	42	Rain
Cairo	74	61	pc	Perth	88	52	Clr
Calgary	48	29	pc	Prague	40	35	Snow
Caracas	84	76	Rain	Rio de Janeiro	89	73	Rain
Colombo	87	73	Rain	Rome	55	42	Rain
Copenhagen	44	41	Rain	San Jose	80	62	Rain
Dhahran	98	80	Clr	San Juan	87	78	Clr
Dhaka	93	76	Clr	San Salvador	84	68	pc
Dili	93	73	Clr	Santiago	71	52	pc
Dubai	97	76	Clr	Sao Paulo	89	67	pc
Dublin	50	42	Rain	Sapporo	39	28	Snow
Frankfurt	50	38	Rain	Seoul	42	24	pc
Geneva	49	39	Rain	Singapore	92	76	pc
Guatemala	71	60	Rain	Sofia	37	28	Snow
Hanoi	78	66	Clr	Stockholm	44	39	pc
Harare	86	60	pc	Sydney	102	66	pc
Havana	87	60	pc	Taipei	69	60	pc
Helsinki	35	30	pc	Tegucigalpa	81	59	pc
Hong Kong	71	60	pc	Teheran	64	50	Rain
Islamabad	84	54	pc	Tel Aviv	65	57	Rain
Istanbul	54	39	Rain	Tokyo	55	42	Rain
Jakarta	93	76	Clr	Turin	59	33	pc
Jerusalem	65	57	Rain	Toronto	50	39	Rain
Johannesburg	71	50	Rain	Tunis	72	61	Rain
Kabul	69	44	Clr	Valletta	67	62	Rain
Kiev	31	28	Snow	Vancouver	52	39	pc
Kuala Lumpur	92	74	Rain	Vienna	34	32	Snow
Kuwait	86	73	Rain	Warsaw	34	25	pc
				Zurich	51	39	Rain

Thursday's U.S. temperatures

City	hi	lo	wthr	Casper	73	39	Clr	Erie	40	34	Rain	Jacksonville	75	46	Clr	Montgomery	72	40	Clr	Richmond	60	37	Cldy	Springfield, Ill.	55	39	Clr			
Abilene, Tex	77	55	Clr	Charleston, S.C.	72	41	Clr	Eugene	60	45	Rain	Juneau	45	40	Rain	Nashville	59	36	Clr	Roanoke	57	37	Pcldy	Springfield, Mo.	66	47	Clr			
Akron, Ohio	41	29	Rain	Charleston, W.Va.	49	30	Cldy	Fairbanks	57	36	Clr	Kansas City	62	49	Clr	New Orleans	75	53	Clr	Rochester	45	31	Rain	Syracuse	46	33	Snow			
Albany, N.Y.	46	32	Rain	Charlotte, N.C.	65	36	Clr	Fargo	21	06	Cldy	Key West	83	75	Pcldy	New York City	53	40	Rain	Rockford	51	34	Clr	Tallahassee	76	41	Clr			
Albuquerque	70	43	Clr	Chattanooga	62	34	Clr	Flagstaff	67	31	Clr	Lake Charles	77	51	Clr	Norfolk, Va.	61	44	Pcldy	St Louis	59	40	Clr	Tampa	81	59	Pcldy			
Allentown, Pa.	50	34	Rain	Cheyenne	68	40	Clr	Flint	46	25	Clry	Lansing	46	28	Rain	North Platte	65	33	Clr	Pt. Petersburg	80	66	Pcldy	Topeka	67	48	Clr			
Amarillo	73	44	Clr	Chicago	50	35	Clr	Fort Smith	70	45	Clry	Lexington	51	32	Pcldy	Omaha	60	47	Clr	Salem, Ore.	87	77	Pcldy	Tucson	91	53	Clr			
Anchorage	39	30	Clry	Cincinnati	53	32	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	51	31	Pcldy	Lincoln	63	47	Clr	Orlando	80	58	Pcldy	Salt Lake City	69	43	Pcldy	Tulsa	71	54	Clr			
Asheville	56	32	Clr	Cleveland	42	32	Rain	Fresno	70	50	Pcldy	Little Rock	65	42	Clr	Paducah	56	36	Clr	San Angelo	77	50	Clr	Waco	79	50	Clr			
Atlanta	68	41	Clr	Colorado Springs	74	38	Clr	Goodland	74	37	Clr	Los Angeles	73	55	Clry	Pendleton	60	44	Clry	San Antonio	80	55	Clr	Washington, D.C.	56	40	Clry			
Atlantic City	57	41	Clry	Columbia, S.C.	69	37	Clr	Grand Rapids	47	30	Clry	Louisville	53	35	Pcldy	Peoria	53	38	Clr	San Diego	69	59	Clry	W. Palm Beach	83	69	Pcldy			
Austin	78	53	Clr	Columbus, Ga.	72	42	Clr	Great Falls	67	43	Clr	Lubbock	77	46	Clr	Philadelphia	55	38	Rain	San Francisco	68	56	Clry	Wichita	69	50	Clr			
Baltimore	55	37	Clry	Columbus, Ohio	50	30	Clry	Green Bay	46	31	Clr	Macau	73	38	Clr	Phoenix	92	62	Pcldy	Sainte Fe	67	35	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	76	53	Clr			
Baton Rouge	76	47	Clr	Concord, N.H.	44	33	Snow	Harrisburg	50	33	Clr	Pittsburgh	44	32	Snow	Pocatello	65	37	Clr	Wilkes-Barre	46	31	Snow	Wilmingtn, Del.	55	38	Clry			
Baton Rouge	76	47	Clr	Corpus Christi	82	59	Clr	Hartford	47	36	Rain	Memphis	63	41	Clr	Portland, Maine	44	35	Rain	Savannah	73	42	Clr	Yakima	53	39	Clry			
Billingham	71	42	Clr	Dallas-Ft Worth	77	56	Clr	Holiday Inn	78	56	Pcldy	Miami Beach	85	71	Pcldy	Portland, Ore.	57	49	Rain	Seattle	58	49	Rain	Youngstown	40	29	Rain			
Bismarck	56	41	Clr	Dayton	51	30	Pcldy	Honolulu	85	71	Clr	Midland-Odessa	76	48	Clr	Providence	50	38	Rain	Shreveport	74	47	Clr	Youngstown	40	29	Rain			
Boise	63	45	Pcldy	Daytona Beach	78	56	Pcldy	Houston	79	53	Clr	Milwaukee	50	35	Clr	Pueblo	78	34	Clr	Sioux City	61	44	Clr	Sioux Falls	58	43	Clr			
Boston	49	39	Rain	Denver	73	40	Clry	Indiansapolis	52	35	Pcldy	Mobile	74	44	Clr	Raleigh-Durham	63	37	Clr	Sioux Falls	58	43	Clr	High Ties, 98, Rialto, Calif.	Low: Wed., 14 at Kremling, Colo.					
Bridgeport	52	37	Rain	Des Moines	57	43	Clr	El Paso	75	46	Pcldy	Missoula	56	36	Clry	Rapid City	69	40	Clr	South Bend	50	33	Pcldy	Low: Wed., 14 at Kremling, Colo.	56	42	Clry			
Brownsville	83	64	Pcldy	Detroit	49	28	Clry	Elkins	45	30	Clry	Mpls-St Paul	50	42	Clry	Reno	64	42	Pcldy	Spokane										
Buffalo	43	30	Rain	Duluth	38	31	Clr	Huntsville	63	36	Clr	Raleigh-Durham	63	37	Clr	Sioux Falls	58	43	Clr	South Bend										
Burlington, Vt.	42	33	Rain	El Paso	75	46	Pcldy	Indianapolis	52	35	Pcldy	Mobile	74	44	Clr	Reno	64	42	Pcldy	Spokane										
Caribou, Maine	37	28	Clry	Elkins	45	30	Pcldy	Jackson, Miss.	69	41	Clr																			

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Don't insult Creech airmen

Those who have written in disgust to "The War Room" (article, Oct. 28) have no right to be offended or to be so offensive in response.

No airman at Creech would ever contend that he or she has it tougher than anyone in combat downrange. To say that we experience no hardships, however, would be a lie. We just want to get our story out, let people know what we go through, same as you would if someone wrote an article about your job.

Coming home to a family a few hours after killing an enemy or witnessing the enemy kill one of our own isn't easy. It may not be as hard as something you've gone through, but that's not for you to judge.

I can sympathize with all the points made in the article, as I have experienced them myself. It certainly over dramatized certain points, but I can attest to its accuracy.

However, nowhere in the article did it say we have the toughest job in the military, or that no one else has it worse. It's not the toughest thing I've ever done, but there's nothing easy about it either.

Bottom line: I and every airman at Creech have the utmost respect for all those in combat downrange and everything they go through. That's why we bring our A-game every day. However, you have no right to be offensive toward my profession, the job I do, or the airmen I work with simply because you've got it worse.

Capt. Troy Bagley
Creech Air Force Base, Nev.

Putting selves on a pedestal

I am completely disgusted with the writers of "Away with prancing unicorns" (letter, Oct. 30) and "War Room" a slap in the face" (letter, Oct. 30) and their comments toward the Air Force's drone crew. It doesn't matter what your role or branch is: War is war, and war is ugly.

Everyone has a different way of handling traumatic events on the battlefield, whether they're seeing it on a monitor or whether they're there in person fighting or sitting behind a desk on a base.

The drone operators did not once say that they are going through the exact same thing as troops who are deployed and away from their families.

The point of the article was that, even though they are participating in this war from the home front, it is still possible to have difficulties processing what is seen and heard live from the battlefield, in addition to daily changing gears between intense battle and home life.

How dare the writers put themselves and their jobs on a pedestal at the expense of another servicemember! They are all fighting for the same side. Way to boost morale by minimizing your own team members! It's a slap in the face of every troop dealing with the emotional challenges that come from fighting this war and their family and

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Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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friends who try to be supportive.

It's this type of attitude that makes it hard for troops who need help to come forward. What is the result? Record-breaking suicide rates, increases in domestic violence and divorces, and many other issues.

I really hope commands start cracking down hard on all troops, regardless of rank or branch, who make comments like these. They're doing a disservice to their comrades.

When the writers are out on the battlefield and using the drone operators for assistance during a fight, I highly doubt they'll be calling them "prancing unicorns" then!

Tiffany Tran-Ozuna
Vicenza, Italy

All in this together

The airmen discussed in "The War Room" (article, Oct. 28) are no more or less proud members of the military than any of us on the ground.

I was awarded the Combat Action Badge and earned it more times than I care to remember. Prior to deploying, a group of soldiers I was a part of spent two years training our brothers and sisters before they went into harm's way. After that mission, it was my turn to get some. I am proud of both periods of service.

To all soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen, we are all in this fight together. When you are home, enjoy the time with your families. The only thing I ask while you are home is to keep those of us in harm's way in your prayers.

To my fellow soldiers, if complaining helps you deal with stress, then complain away.

But do not, for one second, think you are better than anyone else.

We are all in this fight together, One team, one fight!

Sais Singh
Camp Victory, Iraq

No sympathy for Creech pilots

I found it highly ironic that while sitting in western Afghanistan where we just lost 14 Americans in helicopter crashes, I find "The War Room" (article, Oct. 28), about drone pilots safely tucked away in Nevada complaining about combat fatigue.

I passed that article around and all of those who earned their Combat Infantryman Badge and Combat Action Badge and have deployed time measured in years, not months, said the same thing: "Want to switch?"

I respect that Stars and Stripes tries to shed light on all aspects of the military, but out of respect for those of us on the ground, please do not make another attempt at sympathy for Air Force officers in the rear.

Drone pilots, please, the next time you feel like complaining about your job, stop, take a deep breath and remind yourself, "At least I'm not actually in Afghanistan. I get to see my wife at night, I don't have to sleep with my weapon in a hole in a mountain in the middle of winter, I can take a hot shower, and get a hot meal and coffee. I don't have to worry about bullets, mortars, rockets or grenades getting shot at me. I don't have to worry about getting injured when my bird gets shot down. I don't have to load my dead buddies onto helicopters. I don't have to see charred human remains, or the faces of the men and boys I've killed. I don't have to pull civilian bodies off of car hoods that the Taliban left there as a message. You know, I have it pretty good."

Guys, any time you want to switch jobs, just let me know. This infantryman would gladly take your job, as would every joint terminal attack controller and joint forward observer.

Sgt. Daniel Williams
Herat, Afghanistan

Policy changes can hurt Army

I do not agree with the Army changing its uniform policy for a soldier based on that person's religion ("Army waives its uniform policy for Sikh physician," article, Oct. 26).

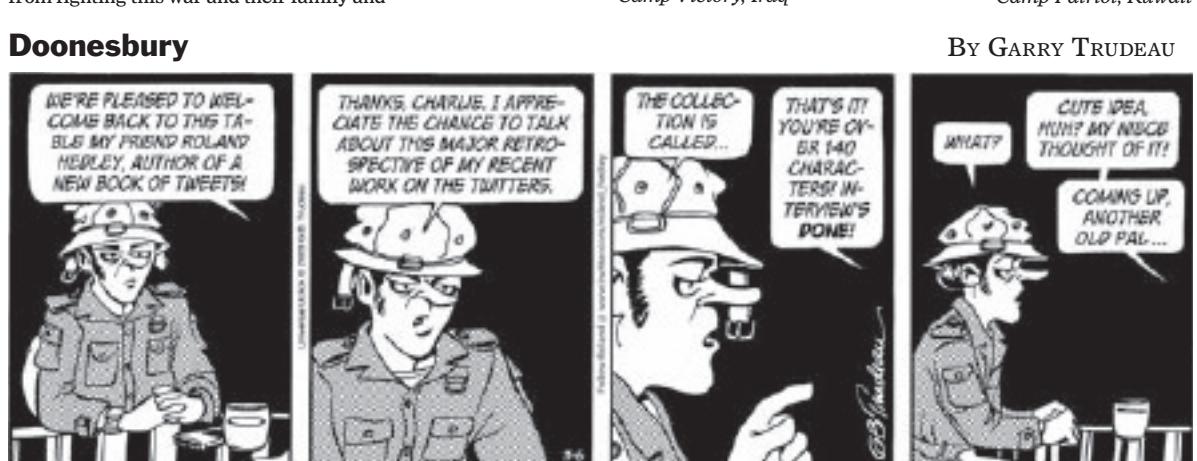
If a person cannot follow uniform policies for one reason or another, he should not join.

The Army has always been the great equalizer; everyone should be the same as far as dress is concerned.

The uniform policy does not change a person's personality. If the Army starts making exceptions for soldiers' preferences, it deconstructs the uniformity that makes this Army strong.

All it takes is one person wanting things to change for him, then it all just spirals out of control from there.

Spc. Ryan Anderson
Camp Patriot, Kuwait

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

OPINION

Karzai makes 'dithering' look like wisdom

BY GEORGE F. WILL

WASHINGTON

Actress Cate Blanchett, who has played Queen Elizabeth I, is performing here, portraying someone less than regal — flurried, anxious Blanche DuBois, in Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire." If Obama administration officials involved in formulating Afghanistan policy see her, they should wince when she speaks DuBois' signature line: "I have always depended on the kindness of strangers."

The U.S. mission — whatever it is; stay tuned — in that fractured semi-nation depends on substantially increased competence and radically reduced corruption among the strangers governing in, if not much beyond, Kabul. One stranger is Afghanistan's president. We are getting to know him well.

On Jan. 29, 2002, just 114 days after the U.S. intervention in Afghanistan began, President George W. Bush, during his State of the Union address, introduced to a joint session of Congress and to a national television audience a man in the gallery of the House chamber — "the distinguished interim leader of a liberated Afghanistan, Chairman Hamid Karzai." Interim no more, he has won — or at least secured — another five years in office. Abdullah Abdullah, whom Karzai defeated in Aug. 20's ruinous election — fraudulent ballots, bogus polling places, one-third of Karzai's votes disallowed — has decided not to participate in a runoff, partly because it was to be conducted by those who supervised the first election. When it was reported that Abdullah was thinking about withdrawing, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's response was inane: "We see

that happen in our own country where, for whatever combination of reasons, one of the candidates decides not to go forward. I don't think it has anything to do with the legitimacy of the election." So, Afghanistan is just like America — candidates decide "not to go forward."

After hearing that Abdullah would withdraw, Clinton said, "I do not think it affects the legitimacy. ... When President Karzai accepted [the runoff] without knowing what the consequences and outcome would be, that bestowed legitimacy from that moment forward." So, the U.S. government chooses to believe that legitimacy descends upon Karzai simply because he agreed to another election controlled by his operatives. Such desperate sophistry is dismaying evidence of the mentality of the Obama administration as it contemplates the military's request for a substantial increase of U.S. forces, just eight months after the latest increase.

Remember the reason given for that one? In March, President Barack Obama increased U.S. forces in Afghanistan. In September, he said: "I did order 21,000 additional troops there to make sure that we could secure the election, because I thought that was important." The election was indeed important.

Last Sunday, on "This Week," Valerie Jarrett, one of the president's confidants, was asked whether Karzai's demolition of the process that was supposed to legitimize him will "cast a cloud over President Karzai and make it more difficult ... to implement [the president's] strategy."

Jarrett replied: "We don't think that it's going to add a complication to the strategy. ... We're going to work with the leader of the Afghan government and hopefully that's



going to improve the state of conditions for the people in Afghanistan, and also help us as we try to bring this war to a close."

Hopefully? Talk about the audacity of hope. Jarrett perhaps signaled the goal that the president's strategy, which is a work in progress, is to serve — bringing the war "to a close." Barack Obama has no intention of being a war president.

Already the annual cost of America's errand in Afghanistan is larger than that country's GDP. U.S. success depends on Afghans perceiving the central government as legitimate, which they will not do for at least five more years. Americans, led by a commander in chief whose heart is not in it, will not sustain the years of casualties and other costs necessary to create self-sufficient Afghan security forces beneath a corrupt regime.

On July 24, 2008, in Berlin, Obama stressed the need to "defeat the Taliban." Then, however, he spoke as a "citizen of the world," not as president. Now he is being presidential by reconsidering some implications of the politically calculated rhetoric that helped make him president. He is rightly ignoring those who cannot distinguish thinking from dithering.

President Woodrow Wilson, looking censoriously at some nations to America's south, reportedly vowed, "We will teach them to elect good men." Whatever strategy Obama adopts, its success cannot depend on America teaching Afghans to do that. If he is looking for a strategy that depends on legitimacy in Kabul, he is looking for a unicorn.

George F. Will is a member of the Washington Post Writers Group.

Check impulse to spread anti-religious bigotry

BY JAY AMBROSE

Scripps Howard News Service

Even though they may remind you immediately of the worst racists you have known, bigoted bashers of religion often get away with it no matter how shallow, uncomprehending, unfair, overly generalizing, nasty-minded or obviously hostile their attitudes are.

Every now and then, however, someone strikes back, such as Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York. On his Web site, I first learned from a New York Post article, he recently took a swing at anti-Catholicism, particularly as exhibited in The New York Times, but did not stop there.

"It is not hyperbole to call prejudice against the Catholic Church a national pastime," he writes. "Scholars such as Arthur Schlesinger Sr. referred to it as 'the deepest bias in the history of the American people,' while John Higham described it as 'the most luxuriant, tenacious tradition of paranoiac agitation in American history.' 'The anti-Semitism of the left,' is how Paul Vierck reads it, and Professor Philip Jenkins sub-titles his book on the topic 'the last acceptable prejudice.'"

The archbishop then shows how the Times, in writing about the sexual abuse of children by Orthodox Jewish rabbis, applies standards different from those it exhibited in coverage of abuse by Catholic priests. He notes how the Times gave front-page play to a 25-year-old story of a Franciscan priest fathering a child. He is puzzled by the treatment of a story about Catholics opening their doors to Anglicans, and then he has at a "scurrilous piece" by columnist Maureen Dowd, a woman whose unending ad hominem ferocity apparent-

ly makes some chuckle even as it makes Dolan and others of us wonder about journalistic judgment.

Dowd, says Dolan, "digs deep into the nativist handbook to use every anti-Catholic caricature possible, from the Inquisition to the Holocaust, condoms, obsession with sex, pedophile priests, and oppression of women, all the while slashing Pope Benedict XVI for his shoes, his forced conscription — along with every other German teenage boy — into the German army, his outreach to former Catholics, and his recent welcome to Anglicans."

Dolan then observes that anti-Catholicism is hardly limited to the pages of the Times, and he could have added that anti-religious bigotry is hardly confined to Catholicism. Bill Maher, a comedian whose most laughable quality is his intellectual pretentiousness, has an obsession with all

religion that not so long ago manifested itself in a documentary making fun of a variety of faiths.

His strategy, as described by Los Angeles Times movie critic Kenneth Turan, was to take "his questions not to sober religious thinkers but to assorted fruits and nuts that populate the fringes of religion." Did it not occur to Maher that you could do the same thing with any large group, and that focusing on the peculiar few is the age-old methodology of those stirring up hatred against the whole, not least of all against racial minorities?

But step aside Maher, because here comes Larry David of HBO's "Curb Your Enthusiasm." On the show, he managed to accidentally urinate on a picture of Jesus. Later, two believers view the picture, thinking they are witnessing a tear run from one of Jesus' eyes — an astonishing

miracle. While the reaction of Christians to these juvenilia seems to have been fairly mild, some bloggers and others have noted the consequences would have been something far less than mild if the picture had been of Barack Obama or Mohammed.

Dolan makes clear he is not against thoughtful criticism of religion, and I am not, either. Nor am I against religious satire. But there are times when some combination of overreach, tastelessness, gross insensitivity, stereotyping, double standards, witless anger, narrow-mindedness and uncomprehending intolerance adds up to an anti-religious bigotry that is poisonously bigoted, and it seems to me important to say so occasionally.

Jay Ambrose, formerly Washington director of editorial policy for Scripps Howard newspapers and the editor of dailies in El Paso, Texas, and Denver, is a columnist living in Colorado.

Prickly City



BY SCOTT STANTIS



Judge rethinks mob victims' damages

MA BOSTON — A federal judge in Boston who ruled that the mothers of two women allegedly slain by FBI informants James "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi were not entitled to collect damages for loss of emotional support is reconsidering his decision.

U.S. District Judge William Young has scheduled a hearing to hear arguments on whether the mothers of Debra Davis and Deborah Hussey are entitled to additional damages.

Young found the government liable for the slayings of Hussey, Davis, and Louis Litif because of the FBI's mishandling of Bulger and Flemmi. But he ruled the women's mothers were not entitled to compensation because the victims were adults.

Slaughterhouse closed for history of cruelty

VT MONTPELIER — A Vermont slaughterhouse ordered closed after video showed calves kicked, shocked and cut while conscious had its operating license suspended three times earlier this year for similar conduct.

U.S. Department of Agriculture records show Bushway Packing Inc. of Grand Isle was shut down for a day in May, again in June and again in July after an inspector cited it for inhumane treatment of animals.

The revelation came as the Humane Society of the United States released more video footage taken with a hidden camera this summer. The video shows days-old male calves culled from dairy herds being dragged, kicked, repeatedly shocked with electric prods and apparently cut while still conscious.

Soldier arrested over explosives in field

TN CLARKSVILLE — An Army Special Forces soldier has been arrested following the discovery of about 100 pounds of explosives outside his home in Tennessee.

Federal and military officials searched the soldier's home after a pair of hunters found the C-4 plastic explosive in a field by the house outside Clarksville. The property is near Fort Campbell, a sprawling Army post on the Tennessee-Kentucky border where the soldier is based.

Maj. April Olsen, a spokeswoman for Army Special Forces at Fort Campbell, said the soldier, who was not identified, is currently being held in the county jail.

Fatal boat accident possible hit-and-run

NJ CAPE MAY — A scallop boat that sank off the New Jersey coast in March, killing six of the seven crewmembers aboard, may have been doomed by a fatal hit-and-run crash on the high seas, the lawyer for its owner said.

Stevenson Weeks, the lawyer for Lady Mary owner Royal Smith Sr., said extensive damage to the boat's rudder, propeller and other equip-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ment indicates that some other vessel crashed into it and kept going.

Weeks said he based his suspicion on "the nature of the damage and the physics involved."

Since the hearing began in May, the Coast Guard has heard several theories regarding the cause of the disaster. Besides the possibility of an at-sea collision, the panel also heard the theory that the Lady Mary's gear may have become tangled on the ocean floor, or with another vessel.

Civilian killed in blast near Army firing range

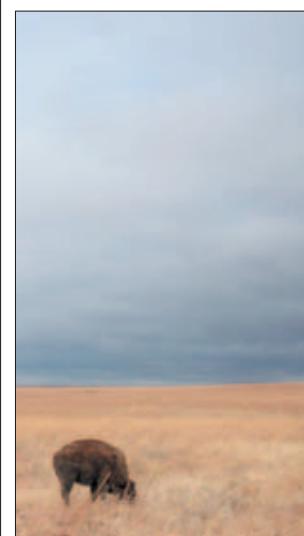
NC FORT BRAGG — A North Carolina Army post is trying to explain why a civilian was killed in an explosion near a firing range observation point.

Post officials say two civilians were in the area that overlooks the range where soldiers practice firing artillery, tank shells and smaller weapons at the time of the explosion. One was killed, and the other was unhurt.

College students explore geothermal power

TX AMARILLO — Amarillo College is digging deep to enhance its renewable energy program.

The school has long planned to add to its wind classes, which have proven popular, but it will go underground in 2011 to offer classes



Back on the pasture

A young bison grazes after being released onto the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve near Strong City, Kan. Bison were recently reintroduced to the preserve for the first time in more than 140 years.

in geothermal power and to install a demonstration system at its East Campus, said Trace Megenbier, coordinator of the renewable energy program.

While wind turbines harvest the area's abundant wind, and solar panels open to the sky for power, geothermal goes deep in the earth to reduce the amount of fossil fuels used to heat or cool the interior of buildings.

The key to most systems is tapping into the constant temperatures hundreds of feet below the surface.

"What's more consistent than the ground?" said Don Penn, consulting engineer with Grapevine-based Image Engineering Group.

Police impersonator sentenced to prison

WA SEATTLE — A Bellevue, Wash., man who impersonated a police officer to force two young women to have sex with him last year was sentenced to nine years to life in prison.

Sasidhar Vanapalli pleaded guilty in September to second-degree rape, first-degree extortion and first-degree criminal impersonation.

Vanapalli, 28, was arrested last year after he contacted two women, ages 18 and 19, through Craigslist and intimidated them into sex by saying he was a police officer, pointing a gun at them and showing a badge, prosecutors said.

Texas colleges see record enrollment

TX AUSTIN — Texas colleges are seeing a nine percent jump in student enrollment compared to a year ago, which some officials say is due to the recession.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board reported the fall enrollment has increased from last year's 1.26 million to 1.38 million. It's expected to be the largest one-year gain Texas has seen, The Dallas Morning News reported.

Texas' two-year community colleges saw most of the growth. They reported a 14 percent increase from last year and attributed much of that to the country's economic woes.

The University of Texas at Arlington led the Dallas-Fort Worth area, with 12 percent more students this year.

Private colleges reported a small gain overall of 2.4 percent. Public four-year universities' enrollment jumped by 4.7 percent.

Fishing boat spills 900 gallons of diesel

HI HONOLULU — The fuel tank of a fishing vessel has ruptured in the Phoenixian Yard at Campbell Industrial Park on Oahu.

The U.S. Coast Guard said the fuel spill occurred as the Lady Anna was being hoisted out of the water.

About 200 gallons of diesel spilled into the water, while 700 gallons spilled on land.

Coast Guard pollution investigators were working with a contracted cleanup company, the Pacific Environmental Corp., to contain the spill.



Public punishment

Evelyn Border holds a sign in front of the Bedford County Courthouse in Bedford, Pa. Bedford County District Attorney Bill Higgins said in exchange for agreeing to hold the signs for about 40 hours, he'll ask for probation instead of jail when Border and her daughter, Tina Griekspoor, plead guilty to theft. Higgins said they swiped a gift card that a girl set on a shelf while a Wal-Mart employee helped her.



Hey, is that your bag? Pieces of stolen luggage are displayed in the yard of the Phoenix home of Keith Wilson King and

Stacy Lynne Legg-King. Police said the two have been arrested and are suspected of stealing up to 1,000 pieces of luggage from baggage claim carousels at Phoenix's airport. There were so many suitcases that Phoenix police could only give a rough estimate of their number.



Gallery gazers

People gaze at artwork from the failed banking giant Lehman Brothers at Freeman's auction house in Philadelphia. The 200-plus pieces of modern and contemporary art scheduled to go up for bid once lined the corridors and graced the board rooms of Lehman's offices in New York, Boston and Wilmington, Del.



Hatching an escape plan?

Sea turtle hatchlings hang out on the hands of a SeaWorld San Diego employee. The population of endangered green sea turtles at SeaWorld grew by 82 in October when the eggs hatched on Shipwreck Beach without human help.



History burning

A firefighter watches as the Putney General Store is destroyed by a fire. It was the second time in 18 months that the Putney, Vt., store — which dated to the 1700s and was once considered the state's longest continually operating general store — was hit by fire.



City's main gusher

A towering fountain of water gushes onto a Los Angeles street from a ruptured water main. The city's Department of Water and Power said the 54-inch water main sent thousands of gallons of recycled water pouring onto Van Nuys Boulevard.

Woman hopes for no tricks with lost ring

OH TERRACE PARK — A Halloween trick or treat in suburban Cincinnati may have gotten a bigger treat than expected — a diamond ring.

Elizabeth Olson says she thinks she may have lost her wedding ring when she was tossing candy into trick or treaters' bags on Halloween. She is asking people to keep an eye out for the ring and to return it to her if they find it.

Man charged with killing brother over old insult

WA SEATTLE — A California man was charged with second-degree felony murder, accused of killing his brother in Lynnwood, Wash., over a 23-year-old insult that doomed the suspect's prospective marriage.

According to police documents, the suspect called police to report the incident, calling it an "honor killing."

Snohomish County, Wash., Deputy Prosecutor Travis Johnson, said he still doesn't know the exact insult that reportedly prompted the slaying in the victim's home on Oct. 26.

Attorney: Lottery won't pay cheated winner

TX AUSTIN — An attorney for a man who lost out on a \$1 million jackpot says the Texas Lottery Commission still considers the store clerk who allegedly stole the ticket to be the winner.

Willis Willis lost out on the jackpot when the clerk allegedly cashed in his winning lottery ticket and disappeared.

Willis' lawyer, Sean E. Brown, says commission attorneys told the 67-year-old unemployed man that the clerk is considered the winner because he signed the back of the lottery ticket.

Slings? Arrows? Nay: The Bard thrives in Oregon

OR ASHLAND — With the recession cutting back travel and entertainment spending, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival was anticipating a tough 2009 season — so much so that it cut the budget \$1 million and actors tripled-up on roles.

But the repertory theater reported record attendance of 410,034 — 89 percent of capacity — and revenues of \$17,998,115.

Executive director Paul Nicholson called the turnaround "astonishing," and credited loyal festival patrons.

Honeymooning politician to miss key votes

HI HILO — Two measures supported by Hawaii County Councilwoman Emily Naeole were expected to go down in defeat because she would not be able to participate in the voting.

Naeole informed Council Chairman J Yoshimoto she would be off island for a week for a honeymoon on Maui.

One measure authorizes the county to sell the 737 acres of land. The other would require the administration to come back for council approval of all major land sales. The measures have advanced on 5-4 votes. Without Naeole present,

the votes would be 4-4, effectively killing the bills.

Physician convicted of assault in bike crash

CA LOS ANGELES — An emergency room doctor has been convicted of assault with a deadly weapon for swerving his car in front of two cyclists on a Brentwood road, causing them to crash into the back of the sedan.

Physician Christopher Thompson of Los Angeles, 60, was also convicted of battery causing serious injury, reckless driving and mayhem in the July 2008 incident. Thompson could face 10 years in state prison.

Hospital fined \$150,000 in wrong-site surgery

RI PROVIDENCE — Rhode Island's largest hospital was fined \$150,000 and ordered to take the extraordinary step of installing video cameras in all its operating rooms after it had its fifth wrong-site surgery since 2007, state health officials said.

Rhode Island Hospital, the teaching hospital for Brown University's Alpert Medical School, was fined a second time for wrong-site surgeries, state health director David Gifford said.

The latest incident involved a patient who was to have surgery on two fingers. Instead, the surgeon performed both operations on the same finger.

Hawaiian jet waved off because of small plane

HI HONOLULU — The Federal Aviation Administration plans to interview the pilot of a single-engine plane that encroached onto a Honolulu International Airport runway as a Hawaiian Airlines jet was about to land.

FAA spokesman Mike Fergus says an air traffic controller instructed the Hawaiian pilot to abort the landing because of the Cessna 172 was "sticking its nose out on the runway." Fergus says there was no immediate danger of a collision involving Hawaiian Flight 383 from Hilo.

343 pounds of sea cucumbers seized

CA SAN DIEGO — Customs officials say they seized 343 pounds of sea cucumbers at a San Diego border crossing as smugglers tried to bring the Asian culinary delicacy into the U.S. from Mexico.

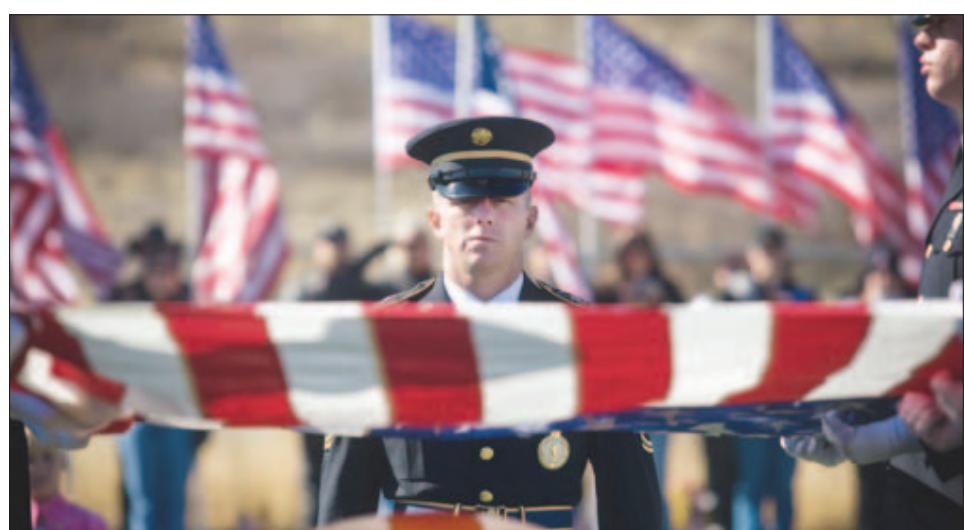
Customs and Border Protection spokeswoman Jackie Dizdul says the oblong marine animals were hidden in the luggage of two Chinese citizens, a man, 51, and his son, 24. Sea cucumbers go for about \$45 per pound in the U.S.

Vandals slash tires of town's school bus fleet

TX MAYPEARL — All 13 operational school buses in Maypearl were found with at least one tire slashed at a replacement cost of up to \$4,000.

Maypearl Independent School District superintendent Lynn Dehart wants to know who is responsible for the damage and why.

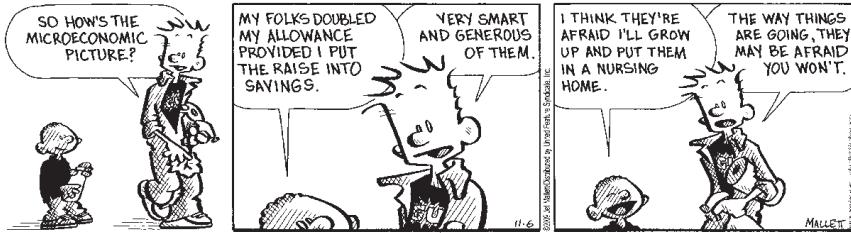
Stories and photos from wire services



With silent reverence

Honor guard Staff Sgt. Curt Hoephner watches as the flag is lifted from the coffin of Spc. Kimble Han during the soldier's burial at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Bluffdale, Utah. Han was killed in Kandahar, Afghanistan, when the vehicle he was driving hit an improvised explosive device.

Frazz



Garfield



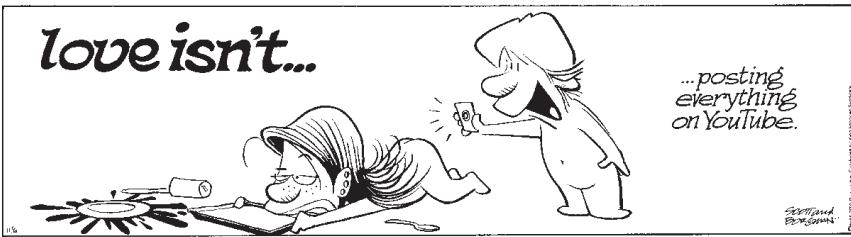
Baby Blues



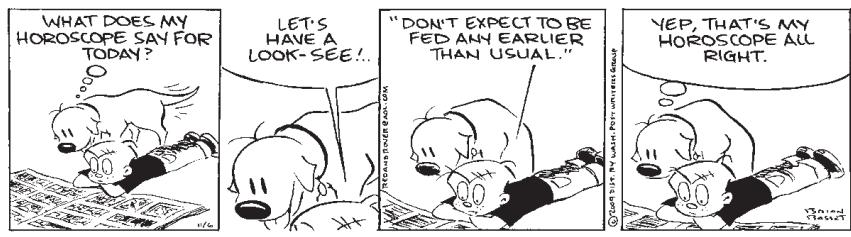
Jump Start



Zits



Red & Rover



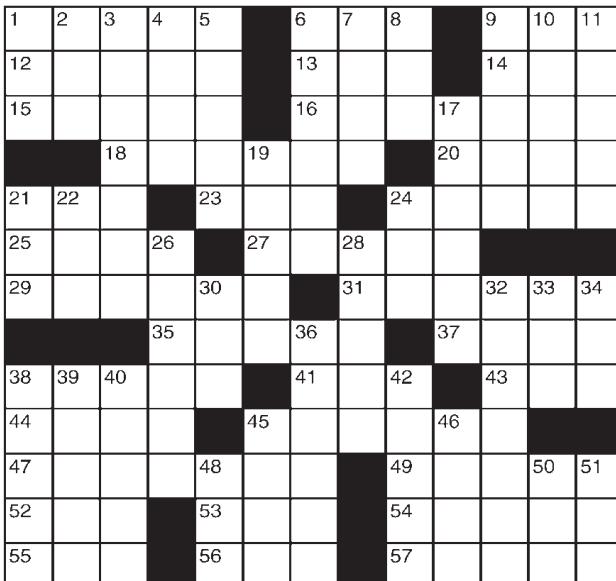
Hagar



Better or Worse



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

1 Urban sunning sites
6 Eisenhower
9 In olden days

12 Farther down the page
13 See 8-Down
14 High-arc shot
15 Postpone
16 Slogan
18 Entice
20 — out (supplements)
21 Hawaiian garland
23 Smack
24 Cubic meter
25 — It Romantic?"
27 Athletes
29 Buffet-table heater
31 Out of reach, maybe
35 Prevention measure

37 Leak slowly
38 Offspring
41 Exist
43 Gratuity
44 Ocean motion
45 Backbone-related
47 Recommended safety limit
49 Hotel accommodation

52 Lemieux milieu
53 Rowing need
54 Of an armbone
55 Apiece

56 Boom times
57 Plant swelling

26 Bricklayer's tool
28 "SNL" alumna Oteri

30 Sister
32 Phone to the president
33 Submachine gun type
34 Energy
36 Pickled buds used as a garnish
38 Disrobe
39 Fragment
40 Rattlesnake's cousin
42 Follow
45 Child's play
46 — Lang Syne"
48 Chit
50 Scot's topper
51 Mound stat

Answer to Previous Puzzle

E	A	C	H		M	P	G		S	K	A	T
P	E	R	E		I	O	U		K	I	L	O
I	R	A	N		T	I	L		I	T	E	M
C	O	G	N	A	C	F	A	R	C	E	S	S
					A	S	H		H	U	H	
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	C	U	B		C	O	M					
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S	A	G	S		D	E	N		K	N	E	E

11-6

CRYPTOQUIP

E F R Q A C F S X F V Q C S F W
R W Q O S C V Q U L C Q E L Q C F T
C A N N J W S F W J O S X F T F V J R W Q S C,
L C X F Q N Q W S L C Q U Q W S L C Q U ?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF THE BARD HAD A PASSION FOR DAIRY TREATS, I THINK HE'D PROBABLY BE NAMED MILK SHAKE-SPEARE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals H

AFN Television Schedule
Updated sports listings are available on AFN's Web site at www.myafn.net

Thursday, November 5, 2009									
	AFN/prime Atlantic	AFN/family	AFN/movie	AFN/news	AFN/prime Pacific	PENTAGON	AFN/spectrum	AFN/sports	AFN/xtra
15:00	NBC Nightly News	Funnest Home Videos	(2:45) Movie "Vertical Limit" (2000) Chris O'Donnell. Mountain climbers are trapped in an icy cave on K2.	Your World With Neil Cavuto	Days of our Lives	AFN Europe Report Balad and Beyond Deserving Design	Design on a Dime	SportsCenter	Sports
15:30	World News-Gibson	Planet's Funniest Animals		The Rachel Maddow Show	Oprah Winfrey	Fit For Duty Battleground	Top Gear		
16:00	Sesame Street	(3:50) Pok��mon							
16:30		(-40) Zatch Bell							
17:00	The View	The Fairly OddParents	Biography Actress Catherine Zeta-Jones.	Around the Services	Wheel of Fortune	The Grill Sergeants	King of the Hill	Sports	X Play
17:30		Teenage Mutant Ninja		Tavis Smiley	Jeopardy!	FNG Useful benefits.	That '70s Show		
18:00	Dr. Phil	SpongeBob SquarePants	Hollywood Dailies	Nightly Business Report	World News-Gibson	Around the Services	Daily Show- Jon Stewart		
18:30		Hannah Montana	Entertainment Tonight	Nightline	Around the Services	Downrange	The Colbert Report		
19:00	The Dr. Oz Show	Aaron Stone	Movie "The Bourne Supremacy" (2004, Suspense) Matt Damon, Franka Potente, Brian Cox.	The O'Reilly Factor	Rules of Engagement (25) 30 Rock	Week-Pentagon The American Veteran	America's Next Top Model	America's Next Top Model	Two-A-Days Busted
19:30		That's So Raven		Countdown With Keith Olbermann	Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?	Briefing Encore Fit For Duty	Grey's Anatomy "Here's to Future Days"		
20:00	Access Hollywood	Made "Pageant Queen"							
20:30	The King of Queens	Beauty pageant queen.							
21:00	The Young and the Restless	Beverly Hills, 90210 "Radio Daze"	House of Saddam	Today	The Jay Leno Show	Battleground Recon Revisited	Army Wives "Moving Out"	SportsNation	The Real World Jonna's boyfriend visits. From G's to Gents
21:30									
22:00	General Hospital	Degrassi: TNG	House of Saddam	Today	Pacific Report	Around the Services	Seinfeld "The Frogger"		
22:30		Strange Days			The Tonight Show With Conan O'Brien	Pacific Report Friends			
23:00	Days of our Lives	7th Heaven "Hot Pants"	(15) Movie "Darkman" (1990, Horror) Liam Neeson.	America's Newsroom	Briefing Encore	Daily Show- Jon Stewart	Sports	Sports	Attack of the Show!
23:30				Late Show-Letterman	Recon	The Colbert Report			

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2009

00:00	Oprah Winfrey	Aaron Stone	(11:15) Movie "Darkman" (1990, Horror) Liam Neeson.	Newsroom	Late Show-Letterman	Army Newswatch	Late Night With Jimmy Fallon	(11:00) Sports	MTV Hits Playlist
00:30		That's So Raven		MSNBC Live	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson	Downrange	Burn Notice "Breaking and Entering"		X Play
1:00	Wheel of Fortune	Made "Pageant Queen"	Movie "Reality Bites" (1994) Winona Ryder. Four friends face life after college in Texas.	Judge Judy	This Week in the Pentagon	The American Veteran	Lipstick Jungle "Chapter Two: Nothing Sacred"		Yo Momma
1:30	Jeopardy!	Beauty pageant queen.		Happening Now	House "Living the Dream"	Around the Services			The Simpsons
2:00	Headline News	Beverly Hills, 90210 "Rat-die Daze"	(45) Movie "The Bourne Supremacy" (2004) Matt Damon. Jason Bourne fights back when the CIA tries to kill him.	Newsroom	Oprah Winfrey	Downrange	Medium "And Then" Allison strikes an unusual deal.		Family Guy
2:30	ATS/AFN Report		(45) House of Saddam	MSNBC Live	Dr. Phil	Recon Revisited	Seinfeld "The Frogger"	Sports	Two-A-Days
3:00	Rules of Engagement	Degrassi: Next Generation				State Dept Briefing	Friends		Busted
3:30	(25) 30 Rock	Strange Days-Blake Holsey		Studio B With Shepard Smith	Final Score	Battleground	Namaste Yoga		The Real World Jonna's boyfriend visits.
4:00	Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?	7th Heaven "Hot Pants"			Headline News	Around the Services	Total Body Sculpt With Gilad		From G's to Gents
4:30			(45) House of Saddam	The Situation Room With Wolf Blitzer	Good Morning America	The American Veteran	Healthy-Ellie Krieger		SportsNation Hosts Colin Cowherd and Michelle Beadle.
5:00	The Jay Leno Show	Teletubbies		Glenn Beck	Good Morning America	This Week in the Pentagon	Cooking for Real		Attack of the Show!
5:30		Rolie Polie Olie				Downrange	E! News Entertainment news.		
6:00	Headline News	Sesame Street				Around the Services	The Daily 10		
6:30	The Tonight Show With Conan O'Brien	Bear in the Big Blue House	Biography Actress Catherine Zeta-Jones.			Battleground	Pardon the Interruption		
7:00						Briefing Encore	ER "Two Ships"	SportsCenter	Sports
7:30	Late Show With David Letterman	Raggs	Hollywood Dailies	Around the Services	Sesame Street	Recon			
8:00						Fit For Duty	Desperate Housewives		
8:30	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson	Dora the Explorer	Entertainment Tonight	NBC Nightly News	The View	Around the Services			
9:00			Movie "Madagascar" (2005, Comedy) Voices of Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer, Desilets, Yani Gellman.	World News-Gibson	Fit For Duty	Fit For Duty			
9:30	Judge Judy		A woman takes a teaching job in a small town.	CBS Evening News	Recon	Desperate Housewives			
10:00	House "Living the Dream"	Peep-Bo World		The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Dr. Phil	State Dept Briefing			
10:30		Super Why!				Recon Revisited	Grey's Anatomy "Haunt You Every Day"		
11:00	Oprah Winfrey	SpongeBob SquarePants	(10:55) Movie "The Age of Innocence" (1993, Drama) Daniel Day-Lewis, Michelle Pfeiffer. A lawyer falls under the spell of his fiancée's cousin.	Hannity	The Dr. Oz Show	State Dept Briefing	Judge Judy		
11:30		SpongeBob SquarePants				Recon	Judge Alex		
12:00	Dr. Phil	SpongeBob SquarePants				Access Hollywood	AFN Europe Report		
12:30		SpongeBob SquarePants				The King of Queens	FNG Useful benefits.		
13:00	CBS Evening News	SpongeBob SquarePants				Fit For Duty	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "\$35K O.B.O."		
13:30	ESPNNEWS	SpongeBob SquarePants	(35) Movie "Carmen: A Hip Hopera" (2001, Musical) Beyoncé Knowles, Mekhi Phifer.	Special Report With Bret Baier	The Young and the Rest-less	Battleground	Challenge		
14:00	Prime News Tonight	The Fairly OddParents		Campbell Brown	General Hospital	Around the Services			
14:30		The Fairly OddParents				Briefing Encore	Emeril Live		
15:00	NBC Nightly News	The Fairly OddParents	(15) Movie "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (1999) Mike Myers. Austin travels in time to get his mojo back.	Your World With Neil Cavuto	Days of our Lives	Downrange			
15:30	World News-Gibson	The Fairly OddParents				AFN Europe Report	How Do I Look?	SportsCenter	Sports
16:00	Sesame Street	The Fairly OddParents				Recon Revisited			
16:30		The Fairly OddParents		The Rachel Maddow Show	Oprah Winfrey	Fit For Duty	Top Gear	SportsCenter	
17:00	The View	The Fairly OddParents	"Fairy Idol"	Entertainers	Wheel of Fortune	Battleground			
17:30					Tavis Smiley	Wheel of Fortune	King of the Hill		
18:00	Dr. Phil	Hannah Montana	Hollywood Dailies	Nightly Business Report	Jeopardy!	Exchange on Air	That '70s Show		X Play
18:30		Hannah Montana	Entertainment Tonight	Nightline	Around the Services	Daily Show- Jon Stewart			Yo Momma
19:00	The Dr. Oz Show	Unfabulous	Movie "Date Movie" (2006, Romance-Comedy) Alyson Hannigan, Adam Campbell.	The O'Reilly Factor	Survivor: Samoa The tribes merge; elimination.	Air Force Football	The Colbert Report		The Simpsons
19:30		True Jackson, VP				Today's Air Force	Better Off Ted "Pilot"		Family Guy
20:00	Access Hollywood	Sonny With a Chance		Countdown With Keith Olbermann	CSI: Miami "Dead on Arrival" Reality star's murder.	All Hands TV	New Adv.-Old Christine		World Series of Poker
20:30	The King of Queens	Aaron Stone	(40) Movie "Cinderella Man" (2005, Biography) Russell Crowe, Renée Zellweger, Paul Giamatti.		Briefing Encore	Battleground	Royal Pains "Pilot"		
21:00	The Young and the Rest-less				Fit For Duty	Recon Revisited			
21:30		Wildfire "Fear" Kris turns to Davis for help.		Today	The Jay Leno Show	Battleground	The Closer		
22:00	General Hospital	Heroes "Truth & Consequences"				Recon Revisited			
22:30		Down-and-out boxer Jim Braddock makes a dramatic comeback.				Pacific Report	Around the Services		
23:00	Days of our Lives	7th Heaven "I Really Do"				The Tonight Show With Conan O'Brien	Pacific Report		
23:30						Briefing Encore	Friends		
						Late Show-Letterman	Daily Show- Jon Stewart	Sports	Attack of the Show!
						All Hands TV	The Colbert Report		

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2009

00:00	Oprah Winfrey	Unfabulous	(11:25 Movie "Blade II" (2002, Horror) Wesley Snipes, Kris Kristofferson, Ron Perlman.	Newsroom	Late Show-Letterman	Today's Air Force	Late Night With Jimmy Fallon	(11:00) Sports	MTV Hits Playlist
00:30	True Jackson, VP	Sonny With a Chance	Kristofferson, Ron Perlman.	MSNBC Live	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson	Downrange	Scrubs "My Identity Crisis"		X Play
1:00	Wheel of Fortune	Aaron Stone	(:25 Movie "Planet of the Apes" (2001) Mark Wahlberg, An astronaut leads a human uprising against ruling simians.	Judge Judy	Recon	Fit For Duty	My Name Is Earl		Yo Momma
1:30	Jeopardy!		(:25 Movie "Date Movie" (2006, Romance-Comedy) Alyson Hannigan, Adam Campbell	Happening Now	House "House's Head" (Part 1 of 2)	The Grill Sergeants Around the Services	One Tree Hill "Sad Songs for Dirty Lovers"	Sports	The Simpsons
2:00	Headline News	Wildfire "Fear" Kris turns to Davis for help.		Newsroom	Oprah Winfrey	Downrange	Third Watch "Childhood Memories"		Family Guy
2:30	AT&T/N Report			MSNBC Live	Dr. Phil	EXchange on Air State Dept Briefing	Seinfeld "The Maid" Friends	Sports	World Series of Poker
3:00	Survivor: Samoa	Heroes "Truth & Consequences"		Studio B With Shepard Smith	Good Morning America	Battleground	Namaste Yoga		World Series of Poker
3:30						Around the Services	Total Body Sculpt With Gilad	College Football Live	BET Hip-Hop Awards 2009
4:00	CSI: Miami "Dead on Arrival" Reality star's murder.	7th Heaven "I Really Do"							
4:30									
5:00	The Jay Leno Show	Barney & Friends	(:05 Movie "Cinderella Man" (2005) Russell Crowe.						
5:30		Oobi							

Military News

Sports

Weather

The image shows the homepage of the website Stripes.com. At the top, there's a banner for "STARS & STRIPES" magazine with the subtitle "STRATEGIC, LOGISTICS, TACTICAL". Below the banner, there's a navigation bar with links like "HOME", "ABOUT", "CONTACT", "SUBSCRIBE", "ADVERTISING", "CLASSIFIEDS", "LOGISTICS", "TACTICAL", "STRATEGIC", "EBOOKS", "VIDEOS", "GAMES", "FORUMS", "STORE", "LOG IN", and "REGISTER". The main headline on the page reads "News you can use online 24/7 at Stripes.com".

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- Free ads run for 21 days and on a space available basis only.
- Please do not put each word. No abbreviations.
- Item prices must be listed.
- Free ads are available for private parties only. For information on commercial or in-home business ads, please call 229-3276.
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Deadline to place, cancel, or make any change to an ad is five(5) business days prior to publishing date. If the ad has a typographical error, Pacific Stars and Stripes' liability is to re-run the ad for one (1) additional day on the next available issue date. Any other problem with advertising must be filed in writing no later than ten (10) days after the first insertion of the ad. Ads cannot be run upside down or sideways.

All Classified Advertisements Are Non-refundable

Classified advertising is accepted from DoD personnel (private party ad Classified advertisements) and all organizations which provide a service of interest to the military community (business advertisements). All ads are assessed before acceptance according to the moral and ethical judgment of Pacific Stars and Stripes. Classified advertisements must be acceptable for our general military/family readership. Pacific Stars and Stripes has the right to return any and all ads considered inappropriate for publication.



Announcements 040

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. S&S suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. S&S is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

Your Hometown Newspaper
STARS AND STRIPES
www.stripes.com

Announcements 040



Autos for Sale 141

Yokota, Japan - 1997 Nissan Skyline GTS. Clean interior. Extremely reliable! Built in radio with CD player. Built in GPS system with remote and TV. Silver exterior. Charcoal interior. Automatic transmission. Less than 100,000 km. Recent gas mileage. Tires good and breaks in superb condition. Need to sell car before November 1, 2009 JCI until May 2010 asking \$2000 please call 080-5688-8024 or email rebekuh@gmail.com

Yokota, Japan - 1998 Nissan Cube 90,000km JCI until August 2011. Includes: Monza Rims 55-60% Tire Tread. Left Winter Tires and rims JVC C/D player with IPOD Adapter new Alternator. New Vandal proof. Oil/Gear changed 24 Oct 09. Runs Great and Clean Inside and Out! Asking \$2100 OBO Please call 080-3081-9772 or email chynasdad1@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - 2000 RX7 Beast from the East! OK remember me? LOL Well, I can now finally honestly say thanks to the Guys at the Mazda Dealers my RX7 is top notch! Excellent condition! No Leaks No Problems what so ever. This car sold for \$30,000 (300,000 Yen) 2002 is now valued at about 18,000! I will sell it for \$11,000 or best offer BUT do not buy this car if you don't love RX7s! It takes quite a bit of up-keep to keep this beauty but trust me she gives a lot in return. This is by far the fastest car I have ever driven but that's just me. JCI until July 2011 asking \$11,000 OBO Please call 080-3588-0119

Yokota, Japan - 1994 Nissan Laurel Grey full size sedan with Kenwood stereo system. Replaced 2 tires, windshield wipers and upholstery have some wear and tear but car still runs in great condition. It runs smooth, very smooth and A/C and heater work great! JCI until March 2010 asking \$400 OBO please call 214-261-6421 or email prodigies18@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - 1991 Nissan Laurel Grey full size sedan with Kenwood stereo system. Replaced 2 tires, windshield wipers and upholstery have some wear and tear but car still runs in great condition. It runs smooth, very smooth and A/C and heater work great! JCI until March 2010 asking \$400 OBO please call 214-261-6421 or email prodigies18@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - 1993 Nissan 300Z 5 Speed. Performance Exhaust, Premium Stereo System, Clean Interior & Paint. JCI March 2010 asking \$1200 OBO Please call 214-261-6352 or 080-6857-9171 or email winfodor@gmail.com

Yokota, Japan - 1995 Toyota Camry Silver 4door! Very Reliable! We'll be available on Nov 15. Great Deal. New Battery, oil, 40000 miles. Priced to sell! Asking \$1800 OBO Please call 080-3213-3525 and leave a message.

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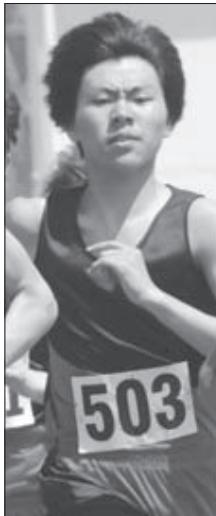
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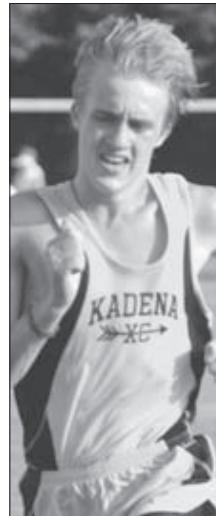
Seoul American
freshman
Siarra Ingram



Seoul American
senior
Thomas Kim



Kadena
senior
Chasity Cordova



Kadena
junior
Jacob Bishop

Far East High School Cross Country Meet

Osan, Seoul American aim for a Korea medal bonanza

By DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

If Osan American wins its first Far East Class A Cross Country Meet team title, the warning shot will likely be credited to the fleet feet of junior Josh Hanks.

Hanks surprised the field last Saturday at International Christian School-Uijongbu, winning the Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Conference 3.1-mile, the first Osan runner to do so. Osan's boys and girls each finished third, also school bests.

Can they continue the momentum in next week's Far East meet at Misawa Air Base, Japan?

"Osan has an opportunity," coach Steve Boyd of defending Class AA champ Seoul American said. "Osan on the boys and girls side is going to be very strong at small schools. I don't see anybody who will challenge them."

Besides Hanks, Osan will have in tow Travis Wyatt and Brian Raab on the boys side, and returning All-Far East runner Kim Boucher and Seoul American transfer Nicole Solomonson for the girls. A team title for them would be a "feather in these guys' caps," Osan first-year coach David Hemmer said.

"They've worked hard for it. They've come a long way."

Osan, Seoul and 10 other DODDS-Pacific schools will compete for the titles during the two-day Far East meet on the links of Gosser Memorial Golf Course. Monday's slate features the 3.1-mile individual race, followed on Tuesday by the team relay.

Hemmer's Cougars feel their biggest challenge will come from host and defending Class A champion Robert D. Edgren, with athletic Ashley Hawkins headlining a group of young, quick runners.

"We've been working hard on putting a mentality that anybody who's wearing green and white, we have to be in front," Hemmer said of Edgren's colors.

At the Class AA level, Boyd brings back a strong squad includ-

The rundown

Dates: Nov. 9-10, 2009.

Site: Gosser Memorial Golf Course, Misawa Air Base, Japan.

Host school: Robert D. Edgren High School, Misawa Air Base.

Format: 3.1-mile individual race on Monday. Top four Class AA school finishers score points for their teams; top three Class A school finishers score points for their teams. Ties to be broken in favor of team with fifth-place Class AA and fourth-place Class A runner who finish with best time.

Top 15 overall finishers selected to All-Far East team. Races will then be segregated by large and small schools, with individual and team champions crowned in each. Team relay on Tuesday. Teams run in pairs, with one boy and one girl running two 2.5-kilometer legs each, total of 10 kilometers or 6.2 miles per pair. Ties to be broken in favor of team with fifth Class AA pair and fourth Class A pair that finish with best time.

Overall scoring determined by combined placement in boys and girls 3.1-mile individual races and team relay. Ties broken in favor of school that places highest in team relay.

Schedule: Opening ceremony 6 p.m. Sunday at Robert D. Edgren High School cafeteria. Boys individual race 10 a.m., girls individual race 9:30 a.m. Monday. Team relay 9:15 a.m. Tuesday. Awards ceremony 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, officers' club ballroom.

Participating schools: Class AA, Kadena, Kubasaki, Okinawa; Yokota, Zama American, Nise C. Kinnick, Japan; Seoul American; Guam High, Class A, E.J. King, Matthew C. Perry, Robert D. Edgren, Japan; Osan American, Daegu American, South Korea.

Awards: All-Far East medals to top 15 finishers in 3.1-mile individual races, regardless of classification. Class AA and Class A team trophies and individual medals to top three teams in 3.1-mile individual races and team relay. Plaque to boys, girls and overall Class AA and Class A team champions.

Returning top-15 All-Far East runners

Boys: Thomas Kim, Seoul American; Jacob Bishop, Kadena; Jesse Arnold, David Bailey, Nise C. Kinnick; Cole Miller, Matthew C. Perry (2007).

Girls: Chasity Cordova, Kadena (two-time runner-up); Amanda Henderson, Seoul American (transferred from Kubasaki); Susan Smith, Guam High (2007 and 2008); Andrea Grade, Kadena (2007 and 2008); Dorothy Krebill, Seoul American (2007 and 2008); Kimberly Boucher, Osan American; Nicole Solomonson, Osan American (transferred from Seoul American).

ing three All-Far East runners in KAIAC runner-up Thomas Kim, Dorothy Krebill and Kubasaki transfer Amanda Henderson, bolstered by a flood of newcomers, including KAIAC champion Siarra Ingram.

The Falcons ran the table at KAIAC the past two years until last Saturday's league boys finals, won by Seoul Foreign.

"Seoul American has a very strong team, a lot of depth," Hemmer said.

The Falcons girls, especially, will be the "team to beat," Kadena coach Tom McKinney said. "They'll be a challenge."

But the boys have made progress this season, Boyd said, crediting assistant coach Michael Schorer.

"He knows what he's doing," Boyd said. "He prepares them for Far East. Everything we do each week is to get them stronger and stronger. It happened last year and it's happening this year. Everybody's bought into the system and gotten progressively better."

McKinney believes that while strong, Kim, Ingram and Henderson will see their strongest challenges of the season from Kadena's league champions, Tomas Sanchez and two-time Far East runner-up Chasity Cordova, along with Kubasaki sophomore Jessica Powell.

A handful of coaches also point to DODDS-Japan champs Jimmy Niescier and Keleka Mabley of Yokota, along with top-10 runners Jesse Arnold and David Bailey of Nise C. Kinnick, as threats.

"It's shaping up as a barnburner. I don't see a weak sister in the bunch," Hemmer said.

Compared to last year's hilly course, the 2009 course is relatively flat, which works to everybody's benefit, McKinney said.

"Now, it becomes a footrace. You're going to have faster times. It's who wants to finish first. It's who wants it in the end," he said.

E-mail Dave Ornauer at: ornry@pstripes.osd.mil

WORLD SERIES

Hall of Famer says 3 days' rest plenty

Cardinals great Gibson pitched three games in 1964, '67 & '68

By RICK HUMMEL
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

PHILADELPHIA — One of the biggest issues raised during the World Series this year has been the philosophy of employing starting pitchers on three days' rest, which, in today's game, basically has gone the way of the dinosaur.

While the New York Yankees have had the baseball world abuzz by using CC Sabathia, A.J. Burnett and Andy Pettitte on three days' rest — with the potential of asking Sabathia to do it again — the Philadelphia Phillies and manager Charlie Manuel have taken the more cautious approach. Manuel wouldn't let Cliff Lee, who started Monday night's Game 5 for the Phillies, talk him into pitching Sunday on three days' rest. The Phillies lost to fall into a 3-1 hole.

The greatest starting pitcher in World Series history, Cardinals Hall of Famer Bob Gibson, wondered from his home in Omaha, Neb., what all the fuss was about.

"What's the big deal?" Gibson said Monday. "I don't get it. I don't think it's going to kill somebody."

"A pitcher can't pitch with three days' rest? Some of those guys make \$8 million a week."

Gibson made nine starts in three World Series, winning seven and pitching exactly 81 innings — 10 innings in one game, eight in another and twirling complete games in the other seven.

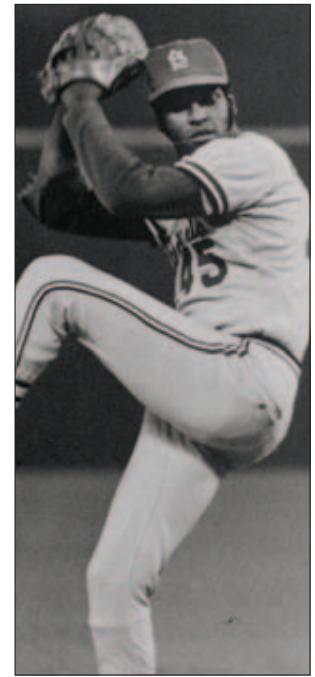
Burnett didn't fare as well for the Yankees on Monday night. He was pulled in the third inning after the first four batters reached base and was charged with six earned runs in his start.

In the Cardinals' 1967 World Series victory over the Boston Red Sox, Gibson won three games, starting Games 4 and 7 on three days' rest after opening the Series.

In 1968, Gibson again pitched Games, 1, 4 and 7 with the latter two on three days' rest as the Cardinals lost to the Detroit Tigers.

In 1964, Gibson stretched his arm to the limit as the Cardinals strained to win the National League pennant. On the last Friday of the season, he worked eight innings in a 1-0 loss to Al Jackson and the New York Mets. He then pitched four innings of relief on the last Sunday, gaining the win as the Cardinals finally nailed down the flag, and three days later started Game 2 of the Series and worked eight innings in a victory against the New York Yankees.

On three days' rest, Gibson pitched a 10-inning victory in Game 5 and then, on two days'



Bob Gibson, who pitched 81 innings in nine World Series starts — 10 innings in one game, eight in another and complete games in the other seven — doesn't understand the fuss over pitchers working on three days' rest. "A pitcher can't pitch on three days' rest? Some of those guys make \$8 million a week," Gibson said.

rest, pitched a complete-game victory in Game 7.

Even Gibson admitted, though, that pitching five games in 17 days was a bit much.

"I didn't feel really dynamite after that," he said.

But, under normal circumstances, he doesn't see any problem with starters working with three days' rest in the playoffs.

"I don't imagine you'd want to do that all year," Gibson said. "But for playoffs and World Series ... if you can't do it then, when the hell can you do it? I don't quite get it."

"I just think they make a little too much about it. I don't know who it is — if it's the media or what."

While Manuel discussed the rest matter with Lee, Gibson said he never had any such conversations with managers Johnny Keane and Red Schoendienst.

"Nobody ever sat down with me and said, 'Would it be OK if I pitch with three days' rest?' I told them, 'I'm going to pitch every fourth day.'

"I would have been disappointed if I hadn't."

NBA roundup

Nash helps Suns remain unbeaten

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Sluggish at times offensively, the high-octane Phoenix Suns unveiled a new wrinkle.

Zone defense, of all things, kept the Suns unbeaten.

Steve Nash scored 25 of his 30 points in the second half, added eight assists and the Suns used a dominant fourth quarter to beat the Miami Heat 104-96 in a matchup of NBA unbeatens Tuesday night.

"We've been working on it a little bit, but we haven't really used it much or had much success," Nash said of the zone, which Phoenix displayed in the second half for the first time this season. "I was just glad, more than surprised. It really came up well for us tonight."

Sure did: Miami shot 35 percent in the second half, 23 percent in the fourth quarter. Phoenix missed fewer shots (15) in the entire second half than the Heat did (18) in the final 11½ minutes.

Amare Stoudemire finished with 16 points and 11 rebounds for Phoenix, which overcame its largest deficit of the season. Jason Richardson scored 10 of his 14 points in the final period for the Suns, who are 4-0 for the first time since the 2004-05 season.

"We don't read anything into being 4-0. We really don't," Suns coach Alvin Gentry said.

Miami got 23 points from Dwyane Wade and 18 from Quentin Richardson. The Heat (3-1) were bidding for their first 4-0 start in five years, and only the second in the franchise's 22-year history.

"The zone changed our rhythm," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We didn't have a lot of answers for that."

Phoenix came in averaging an NBA-best 117.3 points per game, and struggled during stretches of the first three quarters.

Nash made 10 of his final 11 shots, the only miss in the final 27 minutes being a turnaround 17-footer with 3:24 left in the third.

"I didn't really play great in the first half," Nash said. "I didn't get a lot of opportunities, made some turnovers, so I wanted to get aggressive, give my teammates a chance to get back in the game — and got on a roll a little bit."

Nash, 35, who is averaging 21.5 points and 12.5 assists so far, scored 17 points in the third quarter alone.

Nuggets, 111, Pacers 93: At Indianapolis, Carmelo Anthony scored 25 points and Chauncey Billups added 24 to help Denver to its best start in 24 years.

Anthony, who was averaging 38 points, shot just 6-for-17 from the field but made 11 of 14 free throws. Nene added 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Nuggets (4-0), who are off to their best start since the 1985-86 season.

Celtics 105, 76ers 74: Paul Pierce scored 21 points and Raheem Wallace had 20 as Boston remained unbeaten with a vic-

tory over host Philadelphia.

The Celtics improved to 5-0 even without the usual standout performances from Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen.

Cavaliers 102, Wizards 90: LeBron James scored 27 points, Shaquille O'Neal added a season-high 21 while wearing out Washington's big men and Cleveland won its third straight.

The Cavs trailed by 18 in the second quarter before turning up their defense and relying on their superstar combo of James and O'Neal to win their sixth straight at home over the Wizards.

Mo Williams scored 15 and Daniel Gibson 14 for the Cavs, who made nine three-pointers in the second half.

Pistons 85, Magic 80: Ben Gordon scored 23 points and Rodney Stuckey added 20 as short-handed Detroit handed Orlando its first loss of the season.

Detroit's Tayshaun Prince saw his streak of 496 straight games played end as he was sidelined with a back injury. Prince last missed a game on April 13, 2003 — during his rookie season — against Memphis.

The Pistons also got 20 from third guard Will Bynum, while Vince Carter led Orlando with 15.

Mavericks 96, Jazz 85: At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored a club-record 29 of his 40 points during a frantic fourth-quarter comeback.

Nowitzki broke the franchise record of 24 points in any quarter set by Mark Aguirre against Denver on March 24, 1984.

Dallas was down 72-56 after Utah's Wes Matthews hit a layup with 9:51 left. The Mavericks then trailed by 13 before Nowitzki's three-point play triggered a 19-6 run capped by his layup with 2:41 remaining to tie it at 83.

Lakers 101, Thunder 98 (OT): Kobe Bryant scored 31 points and hit the go-ahead jumper in overtime as Los Angeles got tested in its first road game of the season.

Bryant connected on a turnaround jumper from the left side with 2:29 to play to give the defending NBA champions a 99-97 lead and then hit two free throws with 18 seconds remaining to push the lead to three.

Bulls 83, Bucks 81: Luol Deng scored 24 points while grabbing a career-high 20 rebounds as host Chicago rallied from 18 down.

Milwaukee had a chance to win it after Joakim Noah missed two free throws, but Ersan Ilyasova missed a three-pointer, the ball landing out of bounds with 1.8 seconds left.

Hawks 97, Trail Blazers 91: Jamal Crawford scored 27 points off the bench as Atlanta outlasted host Portland.

Al Horford finished with 11 points and 13 rebounds for the Hawks.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	5 0	1.000	—
Philadelphia	2 2	.500	2½
Toronto	1 2	.333	3
New York	1 3	.250	3½
New Jersey	0 4	.000	4½

Southeast Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	3 1	.750	—
Miami	3 1	.750	—
Orlando	3 1	.750	—
Charlotte	2 2	.500	1
Washington	2 2	.500	1

Central Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	3 2	.600	—
Chicago	2 2	.500	½
Detroit	2 2	.500	½
Milwaukee	1 2	.333	1
Indiana	0 3	.000	2

Western Conference

Southwest Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	3 1	.750	—
Houston	3 1	.750	—
San Antonio	2 1	.667	½
Memphis	1 3	.250	2
New Orleans	1 3	.250	2

Northwest Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	4 0	1.000	—
Oklahoma City	2 2	.500	2
Portland	2 3	.400	2½
Minnesota	1 3	.250	3
Utah	1 3	.250	3

Pacific Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	4 0	1.000	—
L.A. Lakers	3 1	.750	1
Sacramento	1 3	.250	3½
L.A. Clippers	1 4	.200	3½
Golden State	0 2	.000	3

Mondays' games

Charlotte 79, New Jersey 68
New York 117, New Orleans 111
Houston 113, Utah 96

Sacramento 127, Memphis 116, OT

Tuesday's games

Charlottesville 79, New Jersey 68
New York 117, New Orleans 111
Houston 113, Utah 96

Sacramento 127, Memphis 116, OT

Wednesday's games

Denver 111, Indiana 93
Boston 105, Philadelphia 74
Cleveland 102, Washington 90

Phoenix 104, Miami 96
Detroit 85, Orlando 80

Chicago 83, Milwaukee 81

L.A. Lakers 101, Oklahoma City 98, OT

Dallas 96, Utah 85
Atlanta 97, Portland 91

Thursday's games

Phoenix at Orlando
Miami at Washington
Detroit at Toronto
Denver at New Jersey
Indiana at New York
Boston at Minnesota
L.A. Lakers at Houston
Dallas at New Orleans
Atlanta at Sacramento
Memphis at Golden State

Friday's games

Atlanta at Charlotte
Washington at Indiana
Detroit at Orlando
New Jersey at Philadelphia
Phoenix at Boston
Denver at Miami
Milwaukee at Minnesota

Toronto at New Orleans

Oklahoma City at Houston

L.A. Clippers at Golden State

Memphis at L.A. Lakers
San Antonio at Portland

Tuesday

Hawks 97, Trail Blazers 91

ATLANTA — Williams 1-4 4-4, 7, Jos. Smith 6-12 3-2, Horford 5-12 2-1 11, Bibby 3-10 0-2, Johnson 9-19 0-0 19, Paul 4-6 4-4, 2-2, Crawford 8-16 9-27, J. Smith 1-0 0-2, Evans 0-0 0-0. Totals 37-80 18-22 97.

PORTLAND — Webster 2-5 2-2 8, Aldridge 9-17 2-2 10, Oden 4-0 6-1 8, Blake 2-10 0-5, Roy 8-19 2-3 19, Przybilla 2-2 0-4, Fernandez 1-5 0-0 3, Miller 1-6 3-4 5, Outlaw 7-15 4-4 19. Totals 36-85 13-16 91.

ATLANTA 15 32 25 25 —
PORTLAND 25 23 21 22 —

Three-Point Goals — Atlanta 5-15 (Crawford 2-4, Williams 1-2, Bibby 1-4, Johnson 1-5), Portland 6-21 (Webster 2-4, Outlaw 1-2, Blake 1-4, Fernandez 1-5, Roy 1-4, Miller 1-5 0-0 3, Miller 1-6 3-4 5, Outlaw 7-15 4-4 19). Totals 36-85 13-16 91.

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NHL scoreboard**Eastern Conference**

Atlantic Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Pittsburgh	15	12	3	0	24	52	34
N.Y. Rangers	16	9	6	1	19	51	43
New Jersey	12	8	4	0	16	31	28
Philadelphia	12	7	4	1	15	45	34
N.Y. Islanders	14	5	4	5	15	37	42

Northeast Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Buffalo	11	8	2	1	17	33	24
Ottawa	12	6	4	2	14	37	37
Montreal	15	7	8	0	14	42	50
Boston	14	6	7	1	13	33	37
Toronto	13	1	7	5	7	31	52

Southeast Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	14	8	2	4	20	52	44
Tampa Bay	13	5	4	4	14	34	43
Atlanta	11	6	4	1	13	39	33
Florida	12	4	7	1	9	32	44
Carolina	13	2	8	3	7	28	50

Western Conference**Central Division**

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	13	8	4	1	17	39	31
Columbus	13	7	5	1	15	42	46
Detroit	13	6	4	3	15	40	42
Nashville	13	6	6	1	13	28	38
St. Louis	12	5	6	1	11	29	33

Northwest Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	15	10	3	2	22	45	34
Vancouver	16	9	7	0	18	46	42
Calgary	12	7	4	1	15	44	39
Edmonton	15	7	7	1	15	45	46
Minnesota	14	5	9	0	10	31	42

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	15	10	4	1	21	52	38
Los Angeles	15	9	4	2	20	51	45
Phoenix	14	9	5	0	18	38	30
Dallas	14	6	3	5	17	48	45
Anaheim	13	4	7	2	10	37	46

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Monday's games

Philadelphia 6, Tampa Bay 2
N.Y. Islanders 3, Edmonton 1
Los Angeles 5, Phoenix 3

Tuesday's games

Tampa Bay 2, Boston 1
Tampa Bay 2, Toronto 1
Atlanta 3, Montreal 4
Pittsburgh 4, Anaheim 3
Vancouver 2, N.Y. Rangers 1

Wednesday's games

Washington at New Jersey
N.Y. Islanders at Buffalo
San Jose at Columbus
Carolina at Florida
Calgary at Dallas
Phoenix at Colorado

Thursday's games

Montreal at Boston
Columbus at Atlanta
Tampa Bay at Ottawa
San Jose at Detroit
Calgary at St. Louis
Vancouver at Minnesota
Chicago at Phoenix
N.Y. Rangers at Edmonton
Nashville at Anaheim
Pittsburgh at Los Angeles

Tuesday**Thrashers 5, Canadiens 4**

Atlanta 2 1 2-5
Montreal 0 2 2-4

First Period—1, Atlanta, Little 1 (Peverley), 17:34; 2, Atlanta, Peverley 7 (T.White, Little), 19:47.

Second Period—3, Montreal, Gionta 5 (Gomez), 2:51; 4, Atlanta, Popovic 1 (Afiongenov, Antropov), 7:30; 5, Montreal, Cammalleri 7, 19:24.

Third Period—6, Montreal, Gionta 6, 1:26; 7, Atlanta, Kubina 1 (Antropov, Peverley), 4:10 (pp); 8, Montreal, Plekanec 4 (Latendresse, Lapierre), 12:40; 9, Atlanta, Armstrong 2 (Reasoner, Kane), 13:14.

Shots on Goal—Atlanta 13-8-30.

Power-play opportunities—Atlanta 1 of 4; Montreal 0 of 3.

Goals—Atlanta, Pavalec 5-3-1 (38 shots-34 saves); Montreal, Price 2-6-0 (30-25).

A-21,273 (21,273). T-2:18.

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Sports briefs

Ex-NBA referee Donaghy released from jail

The Associated Press

BROOKSVILLE, Fla. — Disgraced former NBA referee Tim Donaghy was a free man Wednesday after serving most of a 15-month sentence in a gambling scandal.

Pat Berdan, a consultant working with Donaghy, said he was released from Hernando County Jail in Florida, where he had been held since August after officials said he violated travel restrictions while living at a halfway house in the Tampa area.

A New York judge sentenced the ex-referee in July 2008 after Donaghy said he took thousands of dollars from a professional gambler in exchange for inside tips on games — including games he worked.

The 42-year-old pleaded guilty to conspiracy to engage in wire fraud and transmitting betting information through interstate commerce in the tips-for-payoffs scheme.

Donaghy served 13 months of a sentence that began in a federal prison in Pensacola. He was transferred to a halfway house in June and wound up in the Hernando County Jail after being accused of violating his probation by not showing up for work.

During his stay in prison, Donaghy wrote a tell-all book "Blowing The Whistle," that does not yet have a publisher.

Random House said last week that it had decided not to go forward with publication of the book, which in excerpts posted online includes accusations of wagering between officials working games, favoritism toward star players, and desires by the league to extend playoff series.

The NBA has said it will review the allegations that appeared on the Web site deadspin.com.

In other NBA news:

■ Los Angeles Clippers owner and real estate mogul Donald Sterling agreed Tuesday to pay a record \$2.73 million to settle allegations by the government that he refused to rent apartments to Hispanics, blacks and to families with children, the Justice Department announced Tuesday.

The Justice Department sued Sterling in August 2006 for allegations of housing discrimination in the Koreatown area of Los Angeles. Other defendants were Sterling's wife, Rochelle, and the Sterling Family Trust.

■ Cleveland Cavaliers guard Delonte West was indicted Tuesday on additional weapons and traffic charges stemming from his Sept. 17 arrest for speeding on a motorcycle and carrying multiple weapons.

The eight-count indictment sheds no new light on why West, 26, was riding a motorcycle on the Capital Beltway in Prince George's County, Md., at 10 p.m. with two loaded handguns and a loaded shotgun. Prosecutors on Wednesday added an 8½-inch Bowie knife to the list of concealed weapons West was carrying.

■ Milwaukee Bucks guard Michael Redd expects to miss about two weeks because of a strained



WINSLOW TOWNSON/AP

The Washington Capitals are hoping left wing Alex Ovechkin won't be sidelined more than two weeks with an upper-body strain.

tendon in his left knee.

The Bucks had said Monday he would miss at least that much time and Redd, who was injured on a dunk in Saturday's home opener against Detroit, said Tuesday he should be able to return right around then.

Rays trade Iwamura to Pirates

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The Tampa Bay Rays traded second baseman Akinori Iwamura to the Pittsburgh Pirates on Tuesday for right-handed reliever Jesse Chavez.

Iwamura hit .290 with one homer and 22 RBIs in 69 games during the final season of a \$7.7 million, three-year contract he signed after playing in the Japanese Central League for eight years.

The 30-year-old missed 81 games this season after sustaining partial tears of the anterior cruciate ligament and meniscus in his left knee. The Rays held a \$4.85 million option on the infielder for 2010.

Chavez led Pittsburgh and all major league rookies with 73 appearances in 2009, going 1-4 with a 4.01 ERA in 67⅓ innings. He was taken in the 42nd round in 2002 by Texas.

■ Detroit Tigers All-Star third baseman Brandon Inge underwent surgery on both knees Tuesday.

The team said the procedure at the Detroit Medical Center addressed chronic patellar tendinitis that plagued Inge last season. The procedure on Tuesday involved the repair of the patellar tendon in both knees.

Inge is expected to be ready for the start of spring training in February. The 32-year-old native of Lynchburg, Va., hit .230 with 27 home runs and 84 RBIs in 161 games.

■ Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Vicente Padilla accidentally shot himself in the leg Tuesday in Nicaragua.

Dr. Eduardo Reguera said Padilla didn't need surgery after spending time at Managua's Metropolitan Hospital.

Police spokesman Vilma Reyes said Wednesday that Padilla's

pistol apparently jammed during a target shooting session late Tuesday. Padilla was trying to clean a round from the chamber when the pistol went off.

■ Chicago Cubs left-hander Ted Lilly had surgery on his left shoulder Monday.

The Cubs said the arthroscopy and debridement procedure performed by Dr. Lewis Yocum in Los Angeles revealed no major damage.

The Cubs said they will determine after the first of the year a timetable for Lilly to start a throwing program.

Lilly was 12-9 with a 3.10 ERA in 27 starts last season.

Capitals hope Ovechkin out 'no more than 2 weeks'

ARLINGTON, Va. — First, Alex Ovechkin was day-to-day. Then he was week-to-week.

Now the latest, courtesy coach Bruce Boudreau: "Hopefully it's no more than two weeks."

The league's two-time reigning MVP has the most serious injury of his NHL career, an "upper-body strain" that could test just how good the Washington Capitals can be this season.

Ovechkin did not practice Tuesday, but he spoke to reporters in the locker room. He wore a T-shirt and gym shorts without a visible sign of a bandage or brace — nothing to indicate which body part is ailing. In hockey, secrecy is the norm when it comes to injuries, especially when the patient is the world's greatest player.

"Sometimes players have injuries," he said. "Every player gets hurt. I'm lucky I don't have nothing broken. It's just ..."

Ovechkin paused.

"Something," he continued with a smile. "You think I'm going to tell right now?"

Ovechkin has missed only four games — just two because of injury — since coming to the NHL in 2005. Game No. 5 comes Wednesday at New Jersey. He's paced the Capitals with a league-leading 14 goals this season, helping the team to a comfortable early lead in the Southeast Division.

In other NHL news:

■ The Columbus Blue Jackets

activated defenseman Jan Hejda on Wednesday.

Hejda, one of Columbus' most valuable defensive players and a veteran of 207 NHL games, played in five games before injuring a knee. He has missed the Blue Jackets' last eight games.

■ Thrashers goaltender Kari Lehtonen is expected to miss six to eight weeks after having a second surgery on his back.

Lehtonen has not played this season after having surgery July 20 to repair a herniated disc.

The team said Wednesday that Lehtonen had another surgery on Friday in Rochester, N.Y., to remove edges of bone that were applying pressure to nerve roots in his back at two locations.

■ New York Rangers forward Dane Byers was suspended one game Wednesday for his role in a fight during the third period of Monday's game in Vancouver.

Byers will forfeit \$2,590 in salary to the Players' Emergency Assistance Fund.

The 23-year-old will sit out Thursday night's game in Edmonton and be eligible to return Saturday in Calgary.

French Open's extension project on hold

PARIS — The building of a new stadium for the French Open has been blocked because of political issues, but the French Tennis Federation said Wednesday that it was confident it will go ahead as planned.

Gilbert Ysern, the general director of the French Tennis Federation, said the Paris mayor's office "was unsure of the project's outcome," and time was running out to launch the construction work.

"We have been told that it's now a complicated matter," Ysern said. "City hall is facing strong opposition. But we will keep working very seriously on the project and this is of course our favorite option. We are a strong federation, and we will succeed."

The federation announced this year a project to build a new center court with a retractable roof that could be in use by 2013 or 2014.

German cyclist makes case to beat 2-year doping ban

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — German cyclist Stefan Schumacher made his case Wednesday to overturn a two-year ban for doping at the 2008 Tour de France.

Schumacher gave evidence to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in his appeal against a suspension imposed by the International Cycling Union.

A verdict is expected later this year.

Schumacher won two time trial stages at last year's Tour and led the race for two days. Two months later, the French anti-doping authority used a new test to find traces of the banned hormone CERA in Schumacher's blood samples taken before and during the race.

The French authority AFLD

banned Schumacher from racing in France for two years, and the UCI later extended the ban worldwide until January 2011.

Duke's Smith given 2-game suspension

DURHAM, N.C. — Duke guard Nolan Smith will sit out two games because he played in an unsanctioned summer league.

Smith said Tuesday night after the Blue Devils' 84-48 exhibition victory over Findlay that he was suspended because he played a game with overseas players and professionals over the summer near his hometown of Washington, D.C.

The junior will miss the opener against North Carolina-Greensboro on Nov. 13 and a game three nights later against Coastal Carolina. He didn't play in the first half against Findlay so his teammates could adjust to playing without him.

Hatchell says Breland's lymphoma in remission

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — North Carolina coach Sylvia Hatchell said Wednesday Jessica Breland's Hodgkin's lymphoma has gone into remission, though it's still unclear whether the senior will be able to play this season.

Hatchell said Breland finished her five-month course of chemotherapy last week and will have a scan next week that could determine whether she needs additional treatments. However, Hatchell said she is still leaning toward redshirting Breland this year and her return to the lineup would be a "pleasant surprise."

Breland didn't speak to reporters attending the team's pre-season media day. She averaged 14 points and 8.5 rebounds per game last year for the Tar Heels, and was a pre-season all-Atlantic Coast Conference pick for this year.

Toyota pulling out of Formula One to cut costs

TOKYO — Toyota is pulling out of Formula One racing, the world's largest automaker announcing Wednesday that it needs to cut costs and focus on its core business.

Toyota follows Honda Motor Co. as the second major Japanese automaker to withdraw from the sport in the last 11 months. Honda pulled out last December amid worsening economic conditions. Brawn GP, which took over the old Honda team, won the 2009 F1 championship.

Toyota officials called the withdrawal from F1 complete, making a return to the sport when and if conditions improve unlikely.

■ American Formula One team USF1 signed an agreement Wednesday to make Spain's Motorland Aragon race complex its European base for the next three years.

Team principals Ken Anderson and Pete Windsor signed off on the deal with Aragon province representatives.

Buckeyes have their hands full at Happy Valley

Penn State and its hostile crowd could to be too much to handle

By RUSTY MILLER
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Two teams, both looking for a signature victory, and neither can afford a loss.

No. 15 Ohio State travels to No. 11 Penn State in a showdown that might not determine the Big Ten champion but will almost definitely decide who it won't be.

"We know how important all these games are," Buckeyes wide receiver Dane Sanzenbacher said.

"It's come to a point in a season where we have to win out and we have to play well in November to be a great team."

Each team has played one ranked opponent this year and lost. The Nittany Lions (8-1, 4-1) fell at home to unbeaten Iowa 21-10 in their Big Ten opener. Since then, they have won five in a row.

Ohio State (7-2, 4-1) lost to Southern Cal 18-15 on Sept. 12. The Buckeyes followed that by winning six of seven games, the lone setback a stunning, 26-18 loss at Purdue.

The Buckeyes follow the game against Penn State at home against Iowa (9-0, 5-0).

"Maybe fans out there think Ohio State hasn't beaten anybody, a great opponent," Buckeyes linebacker Austin Spitzer said.

"And neither has Penn State. But we're going to find out Saturday who the best is between Penn State and Ohio State."

To beat the Nittany Lions, the Buckeyes will have to play perhaps their best game of the season and do it in the most hostile environment.

Sometimes, the Nittany Lions faithful can go to the extreme. That becomes evident when visiting teams almost have to run a gauntlet down a walkway underneath the stadium to get to the field.

"It's something. They're throwing stuff at you, spitting on you, yelling everything you can think of at you," Spitzer said. "But it doesn't bring you down, it really fires you up and gets you going. I think it's a positive in a way for us."

The focal point of most of that venom figures to be Ohio State quarterback Terrelle Pryor. He was heralded as the nation's No. 1 quarterback recruit while playing his high school ball in Jeannette, Pa. — about a 65-mile drive from Happy Valley.

Pryor narrowed his choices to Michigan, Ohio State, Oregon and Penn State before deciding to be a Buckeye.

Pryor knows he'll be a marked man. He was talking about it moments after the Buckeyes polished off overmatched New Mexico State 45-0 last Saturday.

"I'll probably get booed as soon as I go out to warm up," he said. "I'm happy here, and we'll be ready to go."

The visiting team has won the past two games in the heated series.

"The last time they came here (in 2007) it wasn't very fun, because it was a night game and they really put it to us," Penn State linebacker Sean Lee said.

"We weren't even able to make their offense punt (in a 37-17 loss). ... But the atmosphere at both stadiums, especially Beaver Stadium, is unbelievable. It's something you dream of as a young kid, and finally as a fifth-year senior, now that I'm healthy, it's going to be great."

A season-ending knee injury to kicker Aaron Pettrey, the Big Ten's leading scorer, puts a damper on some of the excitement for Ohio State.

Pettrey was blocked on a first-half kickoff last week, tearing the medial collateral ligament in his right leg.

In his place, the Buckeyes will go with former Major League Soccer player Devin Barclay, 26, a former walk-on who beat out scholarship kicker Ben Buchanan for the No. 2 spot behind Pettrey.

Barclay missed two of his three field-goal attempts in his college debut last week after Pettrey went out.

Buchanan, sick last week, is expected to battle him for the job this week.

"We were very comfortable with Aaron from anywhere," Tressel said of Pettrey's range. "These guys aren't quite there."



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

Penn State coach Joe Paterno says he's trying to keep his players from getting overly excited for Saturday's game against Ohio State.

Big: Buckeyes' Pryor comes back home

BIG, FROM BACK PAGE

Tany Lions linebacker Sean Lee likes it.

"For sure, a tough physical game that's going to come down to a few mistakes," Penn State's defensive captain said.

This year's game against Ohio State (7-2, 4-1) includes two new wrinkles. It will be the 300th game in the 50-season history of Beaver Stadium. The Nittany Lions are 241-58 at the stadium since it opened in 1960.

There's also the return of western Pennsylvania native Pryor to his home state for the first time since the sophomore spurned Paterno two years ago in one of the most closely watched recruiting battles in recent memory.

Tressel said that he didn't feel the need to prepare Pryor for the fans. "I'm sure he's very aware of that," Tressel said. "I'm sure as we go through the preparation for the week, we'll talk a lot about poise and patience because that's what you have to do. You have to be a poised guy."

Clark, a native of Youngstown, Ohio, ended up winning the quarterback job in Happy Valley in 2008, and he's been 19-3 since in leading Penn State's spread HD offense. Pryor helped the Buckeyes get to the Fiesta Bowl last year, though he's felt pressure from fans this season for the inconsistent Ohio State offense.

That criticism might be paltry compared with the unfriendly response Pryor should get Saturday at Beaver Stadium.

Paterno has shown only respect for Ohio State's dual-threat sophomore. "Tremendous ability. He started a little bit slow, but the last few games, he's been very, very overpowering," Paterno said.

If there's any team that has the talent to stop Pryor, it's Penn State — the Big Ten leader in scoring defense (FBS-leading 9.3 points per game) and total defense (254 yards). Unfortunately for Paterno, he's got the Ohio State defense to worry about, too. The Buckeyes allow only 11.7 points and 260 yards per game, second in the conference behind the Nittany Lions.

Despite the big-game hoopla, including an early opening for students at Paternoville tent city outside the stadium and a pep rally Friday, Paterno said he's approaching this week like any other.

"If there's a little more thrust, enthusiasm, emotion in the way we teach things, or my involvement in it ... I think the kids could tell you better than I can. I try not to, though," Paterno said.

Lee, a senior, doesn't need motivational tricks. "We had a lot of pop in practice, everyone was excited," Lee said. "I think we'll have a lot of fun in this game."

"There's so much energy and electricity," Tressel said of the atmosphere at Beaver Stadium. "It's a fun place to play. There's noise. There's excitement."

Still, this year's game doesn't have the luster of last year, when then-unbeaten Penn State handed the Buckeyes their only Big Ten loss of the season. This season, Iowa (9-0, 5-0) can clinch a Rose Bowl berth if its runs the table.

Asked Tuesday if he was bothered by the conference's national reputation, Paterno offered his oft-repeated suggestion of expanding the conference to extend the league schedule — possibly with a conference title game.

"I think it's hurt us some, but it's obvious why," Paterno said. "We back out of the national scene" in mid-November, when Big Ten teams end their regular season.

College football briefs

Florida's Meyer says refs missed late hit on Tebow

The Associated Press

ond game of the season at Toledo.

Florida State quarterback nursing bruised ribs

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Coach Bobby Bowden is hoping his starting quarterback can get back to practice soon as Florida State prepares for Saturday's game at Clemson.

Bowden said Wednesday that Christian Ponder did not take part in Monday or Tuesday practices and was limited to a few gentle lobs on the sideline as he recovers from bruised ribs suffered in last weekend's victory over North Carolina State.

Bowden said Ponder, who ranks third nationally in total offense, is still sore. Redshirt freshman E.J. Manuel has been taking practice snaps in Ponder's absence.

Bowden said he is optimistic that Ponder will play Saturday even if he is limited in practice this week.

EagleBank Bowl adds Big 12 Conference

WASHINGTON — The EagleBank Bowl extended its contracts with the Atlantic Coast Conference, Conference USA, Navy and Army. The bowl also reached a new agreement with the Big 12.

Under the agreements announced Tuesday, the bowl will feature an ACC team each year from 2010-13. The opponent will be a Conference USA team in 2010, Navy in 2011, Army in 2012 and a Big 12 team in 2013. Should Navy or Army not be bowl-eligible, a team from the Big 12 will play in 2011 and a Conference USA team in 2012.

In other bowl news:

■ The New Orleans Bowl signed four-year contract extensions with Conference USA and the Sun Belt Conference that run through the 2013 season.

Syracuse suspends three players

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The Syracuse Orange took another hit with the suspension of three players.

A day after coach Doug Marrone announced that star wideout Mike Williams had quit the team, the first-year coach said Tuesday that he suspended tailback Anton Bailey, defensive end Torrey Ball and offensive guard Andrew Tiller for violating team rules.

State police said later Tuesday that a car driven by Tiller was rear-ended by a tractor-trailer truck on the New York State Thruway early Sunday. Trooper Jack Keller said police do not suspect alcohol was involved in the accident, which occurred about 20 miles east of Syracuse. Williams, Bailey and Ball also were in the car, Keller said.

NFL briefs

Seahawks cut RB James

The Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — The Edgerrin James experiment in Seattle is over.

The struggling Seahawks cut ties with James on Tuesday, releasing the backup running back who never provided the pop Seattle hoped to get when it signed the 31-year-old in late August.

James' release was one of a handful of moves Seattle made two days after a lackluster 38-17 loss that dropped the Seahawks to 2-5. Seattle also released safety C.J. Wallace and cornerback Travis Fisher.

The two-time NFL rushing champ signed with Seattle near the end of training camp hoping to revitalize a career that fell flat after moving from Indianapolis to Arizona. After getting benched for the first time last season, James provided a spark the Cardinals needed in their run to the Super Bowl. But he was released by Arizona in the offseason, and remained unemployed until the Seahawks came calling.

James failed to provide the punch Seattle hoped for when it cut T.J. Duckett to make room for James. He gained just 125 yards on 46 carries with no scores. He averaged just 2.7 yards per carry.

Redskins owner Snyder says team has 'let everyone down'

CLINTON, Md. — Dan Snyder is embarrassed. He feels terrible. He's also hurt, frustrated and apologetic. Name a downbeat adjective, and he's all over it.

The Washington Redskins owner made some rare in-season comments about his team Tuesday, speaking at an event to celebrate the franchise's charitable program to renovate football fields at Maryland high schools. He received nothing but cheers from appreciative students and faculty when introduced, a change of pace from the reception he and his team have heard at FedEx Field.

"We feel frustration and are disappointed for our fans," Snyder told the crowd. "Obviously our performance to date is not what we expected, and we hope to turn that around."

Afterward, speaking to a small group of reporters in a parking lot, Snyder elaborated — although only in general terms. Asked a question that referenced two recent controversies surrounding the team — the suing of fans who couldn't pay for their premium tickets, and a total ban on fans carrying signs and banners into the stadium — Snyder addressed neither issue.

"I feel bad for the fans. I feel sorry for the fans, and we're very, very appreciative of our loyal fan base," he said. "We just feel terrible. We're disappointed. We're embarrassed, and we hope to get it going soon."

Browns fans say owner has dogged determination

BEREA, Ohio — Die-hard Browns fan Mike Randall made sure he put on his Sunday best for his important meeting with team



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Running back Edgerrin James was released by the Seahawks on Tuesday. He gained just 125 yards this season with Seattle.

owner Randy Lerner.

He wore a giant plastic dog bone hat.

The season-ticket holder, aka "Dawg Pound Mike," one of the best known members of Cleveland's rabid bleacher section of fans, spent two hours on Tuesday meeting with Lerner, who stepped away from a turbulent week and his busy schedule for the visit.

Randall and his friend, Tony Schafer, have been encouraging others to stay out of their seats for the opening kickoff of Cleveland's next home game on Nov. 16 to protest the Browns' futility. The fans were scheduled to spend 30 minutes with Lerner but ended up staying much longer.

"It was great," Randall said. "How many owners would spend two hours meeting with two fans? None."

Randall said Lerner was receptive to their ideas for improving the game-day experience at Cleveland Browns Stadium and even tossed out a few of his own. Randall came away impressed with the owner's passion and determination to get the Browns turned around.

"He's doing everything he can to improve the Browns," Randall said. "He wants it to happen now."

Colts LB Hagler out for season

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts have lost starting linebacker Tyjuan Hagler for the rest of the season with a ruptured biceps.

Coach Jim Caldwell said Hagler was placed on injured reserve Wednesday.

NFL statistics

AFC individual leaders

Quarterbacks

	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
P. Manning, IND	263	187	2227	15	4
Roethlisberger, PIT	233	164	2062	11	6
Schaub, HOU	283	188	2342	16	7
Brady, NWE	273	179	2032	15	4
P. Rivers, SND	238	142	2036	11	4
Flacco, BAL	250	165	1849	12	5
Orton, DEN	231	147	1617	9	1
C. Palmer, CIN	227	140	1608	13	7
Garrard, JAC	239	144	1603	5	5
Henne, MIA	124	74	771	4	3

Rushers

	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Chr. Johnson, TEN	119	824	6.92	91	4
Benson, CIN	164	720	4.39	287	5
T. Jones, NYJ	149	704	4.72	717	7
Jones-Drew, JAC	116	640	5.52	807	10
R. Rice, BAL	96	525	5.47	50	4
Ro. Brown, MIA	120	518	4.32	38	7
F. Jackson, BUF	112	445	3.97	43	0
Ri. Williams, MIA	78	423	5.42	687	5
Moreno, DEN	109	420	3.85	17	2
Mendenhall, PIT	78	418	5.36	39	4

Receivers

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Wayne, IND	51	689	13.5	39	6
Dal. Clark, IND	46	584	12.7	807	3
Welker, NWE	46	484	10.5	48	4
And. Johnson, HOU	44	697	15.8	727	4
R. Moss, NWE	43	565	13.1	404	7
H. Ward, PIT	42	602	14.3	52	2
O. Daniels, HOU	40	519	13.0	44	5
H. Miller, PIT	40	353	8.8	25	4
Ochoocinco, CIN	39	573	14.7	50	5
R. Rice, BAL	38	349	9.2	63	1

Punters

	No	Yds	LG	Avg
Lechler, OAK	46	2407	70	52.3
Scifres, SND	25	1188	65	45.7
Moorman, BUF	50	2335	66	46.7
B. Fields, MIA	32	1487	66	46.5
Kern, DEN	27	1245	64	46.1
Koch, BAL	30	1359	60	45.3
McAfee, IND	26	1170	60	45.0
Sepulveda, PIT	26	1164	58	44.8
Zastudil, CLE	49	2188	60	44.7
Colquitt, KAN	46	2046	64	44.5

Punt Returners

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Cribbs, CLE	18	295	16.4	67	1
Cosby, CIN	17	223	13.1	60	1
Sproles, SND	11	137	12.5	77	1
E. Royal, DEN	15	177	11.8	717	1
Jac. Jones, HOU	29	333	11.5	62	0
B. Wade, KAN	16	136	8.5	18	0
Leonhard, NYJ	21	173	8.2	37	0
Bess, MIA	14	143	8.1	14	0
Logan, PIT	14	105	7.5	20	0
Rushing, IND	9	57	6.3	22	0

Kickoff Returners

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Ginn Jr., MIA	14	489	34.9	1017	2
Webb, BAL	13	394	30.3	951	1
Jac. Jones, HOU	15	437	29.1	951	1
Witherspoon, JAC	9	259	28.8	42	0
Cribbs, CLE	31	860	27.7	981	1
F. Jackson, BUF	11	301	27.4	71	0
Logan, PIT	24	636	26.5	56	0
Mi. Thomas, JAC	13	334	25.7	42	0
Sproles, SND	30	763	25.4	66	0
C. Carr, BAL	13	315	24.2	41	0

Scoring Touchdowns

	TD Rush Rec	Ret Pts
Jones-Drew, JAC	10	10
Ro. Brown, MIA	7	0
T. Jones, NYJ	7	0
McGahee, BAL	7	2
Wayne, IND	6	0
Ri. Williams, MIA	6	5
Chr. Johnson, TEN	5	1
Addai, IND	5	1
Benson, CIN	5	0
O. Daniels, HOU	5	0

Kicking PAT

	PAT	FG	LG	Pts
Kaeding, SND	20-20	15-18	50	65
Gostkowski, NWE	21-21	13-16	53	60
Feeley, NYJ	18-18	13-15	55	57
Lindell, BUF	12-12	13-15	47	51
K. Brown, HOU	23-23	9-12	50	50
D. Carpenter, MIA	20-20	10-11	48	50
Prater, DEN	14-14	12-16	50	50
Hauschka, BAL	25-25	8-10	44	49
J. Reed, PIT	20-20	9-12	46	47
Janikowski, OAK	6-6	12-12	54	52

Scoring Touchdowns

	TD Rush Rec	Ret Pts
Tynes, NYG	23-23	17-21
Longwell, MIN	29-29	13-14
Akers, PHL	22-23	13-16
Crosby, GBY	24-24	14-18
Carney, NOR	33-35	8-11
Folk, DAL	21-21	12-15
Gould, CHI	17-17	10-11
Mare, SEA	15-15	10-12
Rackers, ARI	19-19	8-9
J. Elam, ATL	21-22	10-10

Team statistics

	AVERAGE PER GAME	OFFENSE	Yards	Rush	Pass
New England	406.0	115.0	291.0	291.0	275.4
Indianapolis	403.6	87.3	316.3	141.7	263.6
Pittsburgh	383.0	107.0	276.0	146.9	245.1
Baltimore	378.7	124.5	253.9	114.0	258.7
Houston	374.0	92.5	281.5	135.8	235.0
Jacksonville	351.7	135.6	216.1	144.6	229.9
San Diego	351.0	74.7	276.3	133.9	228.7
Cincinnati	345.9	127.7	218.1	121.4	263.3
Denver	344.6	123.1	221.4	120.3	226.9
Tennessee	342.1	177.6	164.5	164.9	169.7
Miami	327.9	162.3	165.6	165.0	221.1
Buffalo	305.4	153.4	152.0	93.4	202.6
Kansas City	295.6	110.0	154.8	292.6	189.6
Cleveland	291.6	101.3	150.3	287.6	171.5
Oakland	221.1	99.6	121.5	127.5	100.4
Tennessee	215.8	93.6	122.1	272.3	98.0

DEFENSE

	Yards	Rush	Pass
New Orleans	428.7	153.3	275.4
Dallas	411.1	147.6	263.6
N.Y. Giants	386.9	141.8	245.1
Green Bay	372.7	114.0	258.7
Minnesota	353.8	118.8	235.0
Philadelphia	344.4	114.6	229.9
Atlanta	339.9	111.1	228.7
Seattle	328.1	64.9	2

Chiefs back to work with plans to fix ground game

By DOUG TUCKER
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Kolby Smith's timing might turn out to be perfect.

The Kansas City Chiefs will be without suspended running back Larry Johnson when they travel to Jacksonville this week, and Smith, a year after knee surgery, is eligible and eager to come off the physically unable to perform list.

"This is what I'm here for: to play," Smith said. "I'm over my injury, and I feel confident in my knee."

Johnson, a former Pro Bowler who is struggling this season, is serving a suspension for using gay slurs and belittling head coach Todd Haley. Presumably, that will shift the running duties to Jamaal Charles and Dantrell Savage.

The Chiefs haven't used Charles much as a runner. In seven games, Charles has only 23 carries, and most have been draws and other runs out of passing formations. Charles was even a healthy scratch for an early-season game against Oakland.

Another possibility is Smith, who says he's fully healed from his knee surgery. Activating him will be a decision the Chiefs must make no later than Friday.

Haley, who held Kansas City's first practice Monday after a three-day weekend following their open date, said he's encouraged by the way Smith has been looking in practice.

"He made it through the first two weeks and it looked like he was moving around pretty good today, so I'm optimistic about seeing him play," Haley said.

Johnson, like the rest of the Chiefs' offense, has been largely ineffective all year. His long-term future with the team may still be in question.

Kansas City has averaged a shade more than 100 yards rushing, putting the team in the bottom third of the league.

"Our running game is something we know we have to have a chance to win," said Haley. "We're not going to beat people throwing it 50-60 times a game right now. Our running game is one of those areas that has to improve, especially eliminating minus-yardage runs. So that's where our focus has been and that's where it will continue to be."

Smith was placed on injured reserve on Nov. 4, 2008, and underwent right knee surgery that caused him to miss the final eight games. He's been back at practice for two weeks.

After the first week he declared himself "not too rusty and mentally still in the game."

"It's been a long fight getting over the injury," he said. "I had to learn how to walk again, then jog, then plant and cut. It was tough not doing anything with the team during training camp."

His leg was in a cast for six weeks.

"Then I had to learn how to lift it again, and bend it. Just a whole bunch of stuff," he said.

He's ready to be activated, he said.

"What the coaches decide to do is up to them. I feel like if they needed me, I could be used."

Smith had a spectacular debut, setting a Chiefs rookie record with 31 carries for 150 yards in his first start on Nov. 25, 2007, against Oakland.

"If they say, 'Kolby, we're ready for you to play,' then I'll be ready," he said.



BILL FEIG/AP

Falcons kicker Jason Elam attempts a field goal Monday against New Orleans. Elam missed two kicks, one that hit the upright.

Elam, Ryan woes costing Falcons

By GEORGE HENRY
The Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — Jason Elam felt worse than anyone in the Falcons' locker room Tuesday.

A day after missing two field goals in New Orleans to contribute to Atlanta's first two-game losing streak under coach Mike Smith, Elam is still trying to figure out the source of his problems.

"I've hit the upright twice now [this season] inside of 40," Elam said. "The long one — you know, obviously, you want to make all your kicks — but the long one doesn't bother me as much as the short ones. I've got to make those short ones."

The Falcons' 35-27 defeat at the Louisiana Superdome wasn't surprising given Elam's performance and three interceptions by Matt Ryan, the second-year quarterback who's thrown seven interceptions in the past three games.

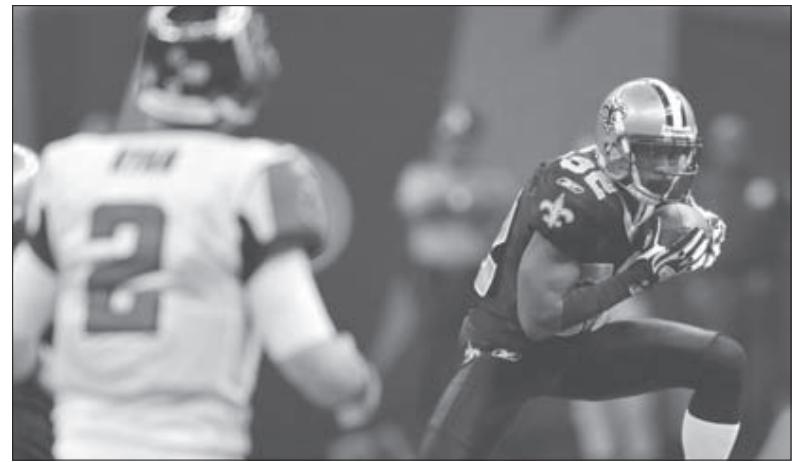
Atlanta's defense recovered each of the Saints' three fumbles while holding the NFL's most potent offense to seven points in the second half. Other than Elam, the special teams performed well.

But with just two days of practice this week, the Falcons (4-3) must correct their mistakes before Washington (2-5) visits on Sunday. After facing the Redskins, Atlanta will play its third and fourth road games in the past five with trips to Carolina and to New York to face the Giants.

"We're not hitting on all cylinders for 60 minutes," Smith said. "I think that's evident over the last two weeks. We're putting together a great drive to start the game and a great drive to start the second half, but we're not sustaining that level of play."

Smith believes Ryan's problems over the past three weeks stem from trying too hard too often.

"A lot of times it's from being competitive and wanting to make plays," Smith said. "I think that's the thread that has run through the interceptions that have occurred over



BILL FEIG/AP

Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan looks downfield as Saints cornerback Jabari Greer intercepts a pass during the first half Monday. Ryan threw three interceptions.

the last three games. Matt is very competitive and confident in himself and in his receiving corps that we can make plays."

Smith was encouraged that Pro Bowl running back Michael Turner had his best game this season with 151 yards.

"I think one of the biggest differences was that Michael was running hard and downhill," Smith said. "He was very decisive in his decision-making."

Cornerback Chris Houston, who gave up a 24-yard pass to Devery Henderson and a 17-yarder to Jeremy Shockey that led to touchdowns, believes the Falcons aren't playing too far under the level that helped them earn a wild-card spot last season.

"The little things that we may have did — like some missed tackles — can be the outcome of the game, but what I learned is that this team has fight," Houston said. "When we were down, everybody picked it

up a step. We're learning that we got the heart. We just need to eliminate a couple of mistakes that we do, and we're right in there with everybody else."

Elam's difficulties in converting just six of 10 field-goal attempts are harder to diagnose. Despite becoming the first NFL player with 100 points in each of his first 16 seasons, Elam is struggling.

He placed no blame on Mike Schneek's snap, Michael Koenen's hold or the field-goal unit's blocking for hitting the left upright from 34 yards and in coming up short on a 51-yarder.

"It was all on me," Elam said. "Sometimes when I hit balls like that, mechanically I'm not getting a really solid plant foot. I'm just rushing through it a little bit sometimes, so I have to constantly slow down. I'm not sure. That's my gut feeling, but it's frustrating."